

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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Jeeves, be a dear and get my laundry

Concierge service the new high-end trend



Dana Rubinstein, owner of a large Brooklyn-based concierge service, is going up against...

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

The in-house butler is coming to Brooklyn.

From One Brooklyn Bridge Park on the Brooklyn Heights waterfront to No. Twenty Bayard and The Edge in Williamsburg, to One Hanson Place in Fort Greene, developers of luxury condo towers are luring pampered buyers from across the East River with personal concierges who will find a babysitter, hire a dog-walker, or even go grocery shopping for their too-busy-to-bother clients.

Call them what you will: valets, attaches, gofers, concierges, but these fancy fetchers will sit in well-appointed lobbies for one purpose — to serve the wealthy tenant (for a fee, of course).

Ian Levine, a spokesman for the 449-unit One Brooklyn Bridge Park, said that the condo building will have a 24/7 "valet."

"We've seen a number of people moving from Manhattan to developments in the Brooklyn area and these types of services are things they've become accustomed to," said Levine. Existing concierge services, including two Brooklyn-based companies,

are competing to benefit from the windfall. It's something of a David vs. Goliath fight.

Wielding the slingshot is Sharon Beason, an aspiring accountant who capitalized on the growing demand for concierge services in 2006 when she founded All About Brooklyn. For now, Beason has 50 individual clients, but is going after the mother lode: large-scale luxury developments.

"A lot of these Downtown developers have hired concierge companies from Manhattan," said Beason. "But I say, 'Wait a minute. This is my territory.'"

In fact, Beason is facing serious, and more established, competition here.

David Werner, who owns the Clinton Hill-based Prestige Valet and Concierge and works with more than 70 buildings in Manhattan, is aggressively courting the new Brooklyn market, one he claims is exploding.

"We'll be doing a lot of work in Brooklyn," said Werner, who is in negotiations with a number of large developments. Just recently, he secured the contract for One Brooklyn. See **CONCIERGE** on page 13



... Brooklyn rival Dina Patton for the coming tide of luxury clients.

PRIMARY THOUGHTS

DECISION '08  BROOKLYN VOTES TUESDAY, FEB. 5



"Barack Obama is going to bring us a different kind of political conversation and get us engaged with our democracy."
— Jen Abrams, Windsor Terrace



"Hillary has the experience needed to be the next president of the United States."
— Donald Graff, Park Slope



"John McCain has shown time and time again that he does what he thinks is right even if he thinks it's going to be politically costly."
— Theodore Roosevelt IV, Brooklyn Heights

"Yes, he really is the great grandson of the 26th president."



"When Mike Huckabee became a viable candidate, it was like a breath of fresh air. He's a good conservative all the way around."
— Leslie McMillan, Bensonhurst



"Ron Paul is the only candidate who stands for peace, privacy and prosperity."
— Sam Russo, Carroll Gardens



"Mitt Romney has the kind of background that shows he'll make serious attempts to make Washington more fiscally responsible."
— Mark Butler, Carroll Gardens

THE PAPER'S ENDORSEMENTS, P.5 • PRIMARY COVERAGE, P.6

STATE OF THE UNION: Kids are back in the 'Hall'

The owner of Union Hall, the Union Street boozie bar popular with hipsters, rockers and (until last week) new moms, has changed his mind after a week of criticism for his hastily announced "No kids allowed" policy.

Starting soon, owner Jim Carden told Smartmom, the bar will once again welcome in moms and their kids for some downtime (and drinks!) a few afternoons a week.

Wow! Now, can we all get along?

Carden had been under fire — and also hailed as a drinking class hero — ever since he posted a "No strollers" sign in the front window last week.

Plenty of mommies took to the blogs to slam Carden, but just as many defended him.

"I went to Union Hall [and] was appalled to be sitting next to toddlers while trying to talk to my girlfriends (sometimes graphically about life)," wrote one poster on Brooklynian. "So I've not been back. I'll give it another try if it's not going to feel like a preschool."

That was one of the more polite posts! Carden certainly wasn't the first bar-owner to lower the boom on the Bughouse set. Who can forget the bartender at Patio on Fifth Avenue who wrote the now-famous (or infamous) "Stroller Manifesto" on an A-frame sandwich board?

"What is it with people bringing their kids into bars?" wrote bartender Andy Heisel in thick, white chalk back in August, 2006. See **HALL WELCOMES KIDS** on page 12



By Louise Crawford
EXCLUSIVE



Pam Willkie poses with Samantha, the dog that was stolen from her Windsor Terrace apartment last week, but returned to her by two women who say they bought the pooch from the thief on the Fulton Mall.

BARK BACK!

Stolen dog returned to owner

By Ben Muessig
for The Brooklyn Paper

A grief-stricken Windsor Terrace woman was reunited with her beloved Maltese pup on Wednesday — a full week after thieves broke into her apartment and stole the only valuable that mattered: her dog.

Pam Willkie's 8-year-old pooch Samantha was returned to her at the 72nd Precinct stationhouse in a tearful reunion that ended a bizarre, week-long mystery that began when thieves raided her 16th Street apartment on Jan. 23.

"It was the worst thing they could have taken," Willkie said. "I'd rather they had taken everything else and left Samantha."

The robbers had stuck someone between 9 am and 7 pm, when Willkie, an administrative assistant with the Economic Development Corporation, was

at work. Cops knew that the dog had been stolen, and was not merely missing, because the thief had also taken the pup's yellow carrier.

For two days, a panicked Willkie put up flyers all over the neighborhood and contacted the local media.

At the same time, sisters Julissa and Shavonne Bernudez, 23 and 19, of Flatbush, were shopping on the Fulton Mall in Downtown Brooklyn — miles away from the crime scene — when a man offered to sell them a dog. Unaware that the canine was stolen property, they bought Samantha for \$650.

But on Monday, Shavonne Bernudez saw a TV news broadcast about Samantha — whom she had already renamed Dior — about the dog's theft.

"I turned to her and said, 'Samantha,' and she looked right up at me,"

See **DOGNAP** on page 13

Ridge steroid suspect kills self

By Joe Jordan
for The Brooklyn Paper

The owner of a suspected steroid mill in Bay Ridge was found dead in an office above his Third Avenue drugstore on Monday night, leaving a note that begged for forgiveness for his role in selling the illegal muscle-builders.

John Rossi, 56, co-owner of Lowen's Pharmacy, had been shot once in his chest and once in his head. Next to his body was a bottle of Jack Daniel's whiskey, a bottle of pills and a note saying, "Please forgive me," the Daily News reported.

After an autopsy on Tuesday, the

Medical Examiner ruled the death a suicide.

Rossi, a Staten Island resident, made headlines last year when Lowen's was raided twice by authorities in an ongoing steroid investigation.

Nearly \$8 million in illegal steroids and human growth hormone were seized in the raids, authorities said, though Rossi, simply as a "target" of the investigation, had not yet been charged in any crime.

He may have felt the dragnet was tightening.

Newsday reported this week that law enforcement officials were considering criminal charges against Rossi unless he cooperated with their



Police discovered the body of John Rossi inside an office above Lowen's Pharmacy, at Third and Bay Ridge avenues, on Monday.

ongoing probe of Lowen's.

"Look, what else was this guy going to do?" one Lowen's customer said on Tuesday. "If he lived and they went after him in court, they'd take the store, his house — everything. By doing this, at least his family can get it all."

Another customer, Joan Lyle, was beside herself upon hearing of Rossi's death.

"This is shocking," said Lyle, who has lived in Bay Ridge since 1955. "You never hear things like this going on in Bay Ridge."

Rossi's daughter had just given birth to his grandson on the same day as the suicide.

BOSSERT ON THE BLOCK

Jehovah's Witnesses to sell Heights jewel

By Adam F. Hutton
The Brooklyn Paper

The Hotel Bossert, the swanky Brooklyn Heights building that was the site of the Dodgers' knock-down, drag-out World Series victory party in 1955 and, more recently, has served as a dormitory for the Jehovah's Witnesses, is on the block.

The "for sale" sign is the latest one to be slapped on Witnesses' buildings in Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights, where the century-old faith is based.

Last year, the sect put up for sale six of its 18 Brooklyn Heights properties, including the Standish Arms Hotel on Columbia Heights, which sold for \$50 million in December.

The Bossert could go for twice as much, said Arlene Aways, whose Aways Realty helped broker the Standish Arms deal.

"The Bossert is double the size and it's a beautiful property, so it could easily go for twice the money as the Standish," Aways said.

The ongoing sell-off by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society — the busi-

ness arm of the Jehovah's Witnesses — comes as the Witnesses have moved most of their publishing and printing operations uptown.

Real-estate developers are salivating over the properties that have come on the market, but locals say they will miss the Witnesses. See **BOSSERT** on page 6



The ornate lobby of the former Hotel Bossert in Brooklyn Heights, which was returned to its glory by its current owners, the Jehovah's Witnesses.

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BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

lunar NEW year
CELEBRATION AND FLOWER MARKET

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2008
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
AN INDOOR EVENT

Enjoy an afternoon of outstanding dance and musical performances from such groups as *Qi Shu Fang Peking Opera*, the *Red Silk Dancers*, and the *Korean Traditional Music and Dance Institute of New York*. Delight in the lavish colors and scents of seasonal fresh-cut flowers at the Garden's flower market. Participate in interactive workshops, enjoy traditional foods, and take Chinese and English-language tours that feature the Garden's Asian plant collections.

Fun for the entire family.

900 Washington Avenue | Brooklyn, NY 11225 | 718-623-7333
bh.org/lunarnewyear | Subway: 2 to Eastern Parkway or Q to Prospect Park. Parking available for a nominal fee.

WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SUNDAY February 3	MONDAY February 4	TUESDAY February 5	WEDNESDAY February 6	THURSDAY February 7
<p>Bowled over Kickoff might be at 6:18 pm, but the festivities for Super Bowl XLII will start much, much earlier. Whether you're hosting a party at home with pals or stopping by one of the many parties happening in the borough [see page 7], Brooklyn's the place to be on Super Bowl Sunday.</p> <p><i>"Super Bowl XLII: New York Giants vs. New England Patriots" kicks off at 6:18 pm on Fox 5. For information, visit www.superbowl.com.</i></p>	<p>Promised landing Today, playwright and artistic director of the Traveling Jewish Theater Aaron Davidman (pictured) will read from his work-in-progress, "A Jerusalem Between Us," a look at what it means to be an American Jew. After the performance, a moderated discussion of the play's issues will follow.</p> <p>8 pm at Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope). \$5 suggested donation. For information, call (718) 832-0018 or visit www.baa.org.</p>	<p>Primary day All five boroughs, and nearly two dozen states, will be casting their votes in today's "Super Duper Tuesday" primary. If you're a registered Democrat or Republican, today's the day to make your voice heard. Polling sites are all over Brooklyn; check with the Board of Elections to find your site.</p> <p>6 am until 9 pm, borough-wide. For information, call (212) VOTE-NYC or visit www.vote.nyc.n.us.</p>	<p>'Beautiful' reads Brooklyn Heights resident Dinaw Mengestu has been getting non-stop praise for his debut novel, "The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears," and tonight he's dropping into the Park Slope Barnes & Noble to read a bit of what the Times called "a great American novel" and meet his fans.</p> <p>7:30 pm at Barnes and Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope). Free. For information, call (718) 832-9066 or visit www.bn.com.</p>	<p>'Funny' girl Continuing the trend of exciting programming presented by Brooklyn Public Library's Dweck Center, "What's So Funny About Brooklyn?" is an evening of comedy featuring one of the funniest ladies in town, Amy Sedaris (pictured), and a few "funny" guys.</p> <p>7 pm at the Brooklyn Public Library's Dweck Center for Contemporary Culture on Grand Army Plaza. Free. For information, call (718) 230-2100 or visit www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.</p>

10 DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, FEB 2

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
ICE SKATING: at Prospect Park's Wollman Rink. \$5. \$3 kids and seniors. \$6 skate rental. Sessions at 10 am to 1 pm; 2 pm to 6 pm; 7 pm to 10 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8099.
EARLY BIRDING: at Marine Park. 8 am. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.
FIDO: Fellowship in the Interest of Dogs and their Owners (FIDO) hosts a get-together for dogs and their owners. Coffee, cake and chew bones. 8 am to 10 am. Prospect Park, in the Long Meadow below the Picnic House. For more information, email brooklynfido@gmail.com. Free.
CORIGLIANO: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Painters of Sound: Corigliano and Berio." Additional works. Michael Christie conducts. \$20 to \$60. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.
GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Wild Party," a Roaring '20s musical. \$18. \$14 seniors and children 12 and younger. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (212) 352-3101.
OTHER
FIRST SATURDAY: at The Brooklyn Museum. A night of music, dance and art-making classes celebrating the Lunar New Year. Karaoke, Chinese music and jazz. Highlights include music with Ken Kuo-Feng Blue Pipa Trio at 6 pm to 8 pm; poetry slam at 8 pm; dance group Kuegion and Company performs at 8:30 pm. Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-5000. Free.
POWER PLAY: NY Transit Museum presents Robert Lubenstein, general superintendent, power operations, NYC Transit. Get a look behind the scenes of a historic Manhattan substation. \$20. 11 am to noon or 1 pm to 2 pm. Call for reservations and meeting location. (718) 484-1847.
HOLDING DOWN THE FORT: Urban Park Rangers offer a talk about the fortifications of Fort Greene and how conflict it was involved in. 1 pm. Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. (718) 722-3218. Free.
OPEN CALL: Gallery Players holds an open call audition for its production of "Lysistrata: A Woman's Translation," by Aristophanes. 1 pm to 5 pm. Sign up begins at 12:30 pm. 199 14th St. www.galleryplayers.com.
GROUP ART SHOW: Art and live music at Fred's Bar and Backroom. 8 pm to 11 pm. Dean St. (718) 622-7035. Free.
LECTURE: Brooklyn Museum Library Reading Room hosts a lecture: "Walt Whitman: Librarian and Printer's Devil." \$8. \$4 seniors and students. Free for members. 3 pm. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-5000.
ISRAELI FILM FEST: Kane Street Synagogue hosts the Brooklyn-Israel Film Festival. Tonight: "Someone to Run With," a drama based on the novel by David Grossman. \$10. 8 pm. 236 Kane St. (718) 875-1550.
COOKING: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts presents a class "Bocconcini: Tasty Bites from Latin America." \$70. 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm. 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

SUN, FEB 3

PERFORMANCE
BCBC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College presents The Interpretive Ensemble. They perform Baroque works from the 16th and 17th centuries. \$25. 2 pm. Walt Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College, one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4600.
MUSIC: Regina Opera's Salute to Broadway. \$10. 55 seats. Free for children 3 and under. 8 pm. 12th Avenue. (718) 232-3555.

CONCERT: Union Church of Bay Ridge presents pianist Brad Whinley. He performs a program of jazz, classical and avant-garde music. 8 pm. 1101 Ridge Blvd. (718) 745-0438. Free.
SITCOM FOR THE STAGE: The Weidling Club presents "3800 Elizabeth." The Battle Ranch, 111 Connelley St. (646) 704-1945. Free.
GALLERY PLAYERS: "Wild Party." 3 pm. See Sat, Feb.

OTHER
LUNAR NEW YEAR: Brooklyn Botanic Garden celebrates the lunar new year with a day of activities featuring Qi Shu Fang Peking Opera, Chinese-English guided tours, music, dance, food and art. \$8. \$4 seniors and children. 10 am to 4:30 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.
PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture offers a look at the role of responsible leadership and moral courage as a theme made for the ethical movement. 11 am. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972.
WALKING TOUR: Two historians, covering architecture and history of Fort Greene Park. 1 pm. Fort Greene Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. (718) 722-3218. Free.
ISRAELI FILM FEST: Kane Street Synagogue hosts the Brooklyn-Israel Film Festival. Tonight: "Watermark," a documentary about the champion women swimmers of Helsinki. 10. 8 pm. 236 Kane St. (718) 875-1550.
GALAPAGOS: Movie: "Casablanca" and "Punch-Drunk Love." \$5 includes popcorn and live music. 8 pm. 70 N. Sixth St. (718) 782-5198.

MON, FEB 4

READING: Brooklyn Arts Exchange and Kolot Chayavin present a work-in-progress reading of "A Jerusalem Between Us." \$5. 8 pm. Brooklyn Arts Exchange, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

TUES, FEB 5

DIABETIC COOKING: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in the creation of diabetic menus. Explore low carb and low sugar menus. \$70. 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.
EXHIBIT: St. Joseph's College Council for the Elderly presents "Successful Business Plans: There's a Story Here." Gallery talk at 2:40 pm. 245 Clinton Ave. (718) 636-6876. Free.
AUTHOR SERIES: Kingsborough Community College presents writer A.M. Homes reading from her memoir "The Mistress's Daughters." 5 pm to 7 pm. 2001 Oriental Blvd. Reservations necessary. (718) 368-5051. Free.
BUSINESS TALK: CAMBA offers a business workshop: "Successful Business Plans: Secrets and Strategies." Interactive workshop focuses on the foundations of creating an effective business plan. 6 pm to 8:30 pm. 184 Flatbush Ave. (718) 268-1001. Free.
KOSHER COOKING: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class "The Eggs." \$70. 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

CIVIC CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEB. 4
Residential Permit Parking Group. Neighborhood associations make presentation on residential parking permits to the Department of Transportation. St. Francis College Auditorium (180 Remsen St., between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights). 7 pm. Call (718) 975-5200 for info.

TUESDAY, FEB. 5
76th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 76th Precinct station (191 Union St., between Henry and Hicks streets in Carroll Gardens). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 834-3211.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7
Fort Greene Food Co-op planning meeting. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (85 E. Oxford St., at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene). 6 pm. Visit fortgreencoop.wordpress.com for info.

FRIENDS OF CARROLL PARK. Monthly meeting. The park house (Smith Street between President and Carroll streets). 7:30 pm. For information, e-mail friendsofcarrollpark@yahoo.com.

WEDS, FEB 6
LECTURE SERIES: St. Charles Jubilee Older Adult Services offers a talk on food stamps. 1:15 pm. 35 Prospect Park. (718) 855-0326. Free.
KOSHER COOKING: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in the exploration of the all-American pie. \$70. 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.
COLLEGE ADMISSION: Book Court hosts a discussion about college admissions and family dynamics. Authors Steven Roy Goodman and Andrea Lerman talk about their new book, "College Admissions Together: It Takes a Family." 7 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 875-3077. Free.

See 9 DAYS on page 10

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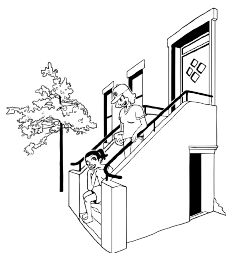
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BAY RIDGE Bay Ridge Paper, BoroPark Paper.
KENSINGTON-MIDWOOD Kensington Paper, Midwood Paper, Ocean Parkway Paper.
SOUTHERN AND EASTERN BROOKLYN Brooklyn View (published independently).

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THE SLOPE

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

BAY RIDGE

A new cell tower worries Ridge

By Joe Jordan
for The Brooklyn Paper

If students were allowed to bring cellphones to school, the kids at PS 185 would have the best signal in town.

But that's no consolation to parents and elected officials, who are furious over the announced Jan. 3 placement of a Verizon antenna tower atop a Ridge Boulevard building across the street from the school.

"This is new technology. When cigarettes first came out, doctors were on TV smoking them," PS 185 parent Evans Kotis told The Brooklyn Paper. "Now we know better."

Kotis, who has two children in the school, added, "We don't want our kids to be guinea pigs in this."

Cellphone towers have been a controversial issue in Bay Ridge for years, though there is no scientific proof that signals from their transmitters are harmful. Nonetheless, many residents are angry about a new antenna so close to a school.

"There was no form of communication with either the parents or the principal," said Tressa Kabbez, co-president of PS 185's Parent Teacher Association. "We're going to go after Verizon. We're mobilizing parents in the school."

So far, the mobilization is working.

"We've been inundated with calls," said Josephine Beckmann, district manager of Community Board 10. Beckmann noted that two other schools — Adolph Academy and the Dominics & Georgia Kolodis School — are also a block away from the new antenna array at the corner of 87th Street.

On Monday, the board voted to send a letter protesting the tower placement.

It isn't the first time the area has faced this issue.

We were supposed to get a cellphone tower two years ago, right after the St. Anselm situation," said Kabbez, a reference to the attempted installation of Sprint/NexTel transmitters across the street from the St. Anselm School on 83rd Street and Fourth Avenue, which was met with neighborhood protests that convinced the company to look for another site.

To strengthen its case about the tower, Beckmann, including antenna arrays at 610 Irvington Ave., 824 13th Ave., 319 94th St., and 7101 Shore Rd. That last address will be directly across from Xaverian HS.

Owners of buildings typically net \$2,000 a month in rent from cellphone companies.

David Sanberg, a spokesman for Verizon, said that the signal from the transmitters poses no risk and is only as strong as that of a radio.

KITCHEN SINK

Carroll Gardens: Bigwigs in NYPD

In NYPD's 76th Precinct commanding officer, Capt. Michael Kemper, up to the rank of deputy inspector. He remains in control of the Union Station house. ... **Fl. Greene:** Wood has it that the city will make its final decision about that plan for a 16-story building on mostly four-story Washington Avenue by March 4. Enjoy the unobstructed sunlight while you can. ... **Williamsburg:** Our pedagogical pad at the Williamsburg Charter HS, James Tulley, just got a grant from the Mars company to fight childhood obesity. ... **DUMBO:** You gotta love Water Street Store in making Internet-ready and software-filled computers available — free — at his Seventh Street workshop. Call Jeff at (718) 312-8341. **Email:** Slope@brooklynpaper.com

BOERUM HILL



Customers complain about the Times Plaza Station on Atlantic Avenue.

Atlantic Av PO'd at PO

By Mike McLaughlin
for The Brooklyn Paper

A Boerum Hill community group is going postal about declining service at the Atlantic Avenue station.

Ironically, the terror of gripes about misdelivered mail, automated machine failure, and long waits at the Times Plaza station made it to the Boerum Hill Association via a more modern form of communication, e-mail.

But however they were received, such messages led the BHA to revive its on-again, off-again quest for better service at the post office, a source of habitual angst.

"We have ignored this for a little too long," Joel Potischman, the group's vice president, said after a hearing a horror story about a high school student's applications to colleges going undelivered.

Both she and Potischman also blamed the poor service on the building itself, which is outdated.

Rampant development and obsolete facilities doesn't fall under the unofficial postman credo, which covers only rain, snow, heat and gloom of night. Still, the USPS admitted that population growth in urban areas like Boerum Hill hinders service.

"We acknowledge the difficulties that customers in this area have been experiencing with delivery problems," Bob Trombley, a Postal Service spokesman, said in a written statement.

He didn't say if the building itself was to blame, but said there are no plans to relocate.

queries about mail service.

Another Association member said the problems stem from the neighborhood's rapid growth.

"It just doesn't serve us well with all the new and expected condos on Atlantic Avenue. We're fed up," said Sue Wolfe, the group's president.

Both she and Potischman also blamed the poor service on the building itself, which is outdated.

Rampant development and obsolete facilities doesn't fall under the unofficial postman credo, which covers only rain, snow, heat and gloom of night. Still, the USPS admitted that population growth in urban areas like Boerum Hill hinders service.

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DUMBO

Green nabe branches out

By Gersh Kuntzman
for The Brooklyn Paper

The neighborhood that brought you solar-powered Christmas decorations now wants to take green living to the next level.

Next week, the DUMBO Improvement District will launch Project SEED (it stands for Smart Environmental Efforts in DUMBO), a five-part program to "be a model for the rest of the city and the world," said the group's Executive Director Tucker Reed.

The project actually began this week with the installation of Department of Sanitation curbside recycling bins, big blue (metal) and green (paper) canisters that will sit next to the existing trash cans on five corners.

The other four elements of the project include:

- giving out compact fluorescent bulbs, one for each household, to save energy;
- the distribution of reusable canvas bags to each of the neighborhood's 1,300 households — an effort to reduce plastic consumption;
- the installation of 35 bike racks throughout the neighborhood, including a set at the F-train station at York Street, at the foot of the Manhattan Bridge.

"We'll also be paying for new, energy-saving LED exit signs for all the businesses in the neighborhood," Reed said.

publishing a "comprehensive green guide" that will not only offer easy tips for reducing your personal carbon footprint, but also how to take bigger steps, like installing green roofs or solar power.

It's certainly not the first time that DUMBO has been at the leafy forefront. Late last year, Reed won The Brooklyn Paper's coveted "Green Hero of the Month" award for setting up solar-powered holiday decorations.

His latest effort is far more comprehensive — but that's what you'd expect from the neighborhood down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass.

"DUMBO has always been on the cutting edge of urban living," Reed said. "Over the next 10 years, urban thinking will be all about green, so we needed to be out front on that, too."



Tucker Reed

PARK SLOPE

On 2nd St, no burgers & brunches

By Dana Rubinstein
for The Brooklyn Paper

An 11-year veteran of Park Slope's brunch scene has folded, a victim, its owner said, of falling revenue and rising rent.

The 2nd Street Cafe — the popular Sunday morning joint at the corner of Second Street and Seventh Avenue — has joined Laila and Tempo Presto as the latest eatery to close on what was once Main Street for Park Slope foodies.

"You can't run a restaurant on brunch and lunch alone," said Ted Gordon, the restaurant's co-owner.



The recently shuttered 2nd Street Cafe.

Gordon said business began to fall off a couple of years ago, so last summer he renovated. And he also started offering an after-9 pm burger and beer special.

It didn't help.

Not did it help that his landlord raised the rent to \$12,000 a month. When Gordon opened in the go-go 1990s, the rent was just \$3,000 a month.

"We said we'd give it a shot through the holiday season, and that came and went, and because care to us we had to close," said Gordon.

The restaurant's closure was first reported on the Gowanus Lounge, a local blog.

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Woman grabbed and robbed on Lincoln Pl

78th Precinct

PARK SLOPE
Four thugs attacked a woman from behind on Lincoln Place and ran off with her purse at 5:50 pm on Jan. 22. Cops say the perp approached the victim as she was near the corner of Seventh Avenue, and hit her over the head. The bag contained the woman's cellphone.

Dejeweled
A burglar busted into a Prospect Park West apartment on Jan. 23 and stole a pair of diamond earrings and assorted electronic equipment, cops said. The 34-year-old resident of the third-floor apartment, at 15th Street, told police that the perp or perps had broken in through a security gate and entered through a bedroom window.

iPod iGone
A clumsy thief entered a Fifth Avenue apartment on Jan. 22 and stole electronic equipment and destroyed a woman's laptop computer in the process, cops said.

The 27-year-old resident discovered the break-in when she returned home just after midnight on Jan. 23.

Big bills
A woman not only had her purse stolen, but later discovered that the thief had run more than \$2,000 in credit card charges before she could cancel her accounts.

The 61-year-old victim, who lives on 12th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, said she didn't notice for several days that her wallet had been stolen.

By the time she alerted the authorities, the perp had charged \$2,229.17 at Target, Duane Reade, Marshalls and Hertz. The perp also purchased a monthly Metromail for \$76.

Ozzburned

The dog didn't eat this man's homework, but he still has a good excuse, thugs stole it. A 39-year-old Garfield Place man told police that he was on his way to Ozzie's coffee shop to do some work for school at 3 pm on Jan. 26 when a thing approached from behind and snugged him with a closed fist.

In a scuffle, the perp grabbed the man's book bag, which contained "books and school papers," according to the police report of the attack, which occurred near the corner of Fifth Avenue. — Gersh Kuntzman

84th Precinct

DOWNTOWN / BOERUM HILL / BKLYN HEIGHTS
Punched out

Two hoodlums punched and robbed a man on Atlantic Avenue, between Nevins Street and Third Avenue, at 4:15 pm on Jan. 23. The perp got the 56-year-old victim's attention by yelling, "Yo man!" before slamming him with fists to the face and stomach.

They stole \$1,700 and a cellphone from the man's coat pocket while they were finished punting him.

Healthy heist
A thief stole \$3,417 worth of diabetes test strips from a pharmacy on Fulton Street between Hanover Place and Flatbush Avenue, at about 5 pm on Jan. 20. The man was videotaped on the store's security camera. — Mike McLaughlin

76th Precinct

CARROLL GARDENS / CORBELL HILL / RED HOOK
A sore thumb

One man slashed another man on Henry Street between Kane and Degraw street for \$1, at 6:15 pm on Jan. 17.

The slasher had asked the man for the single dollar only to be told no — at which point he cut his victim's thumb.

Gadgets gone

A thief filched some nifty gadgets out of a parked car on Dikeman Street on Jan. 16. The 2006 Honda, parked between Richards and Dwight

POLICE BLOTTER

Plaza unswest

A thief broke into a 46-year-old man's car and stole a valuable cache of goods near Grand Army Plaza on Jan. 22.

Around 11:30 pm, the rear window of the man's white Ford sedan was broken and \$1,200 worth of DVDs and books were removed.

Road warrior
A man was arrested for driving through pedestrian-filled crosswalks, swerving through lanes, and traveling at nearly double the legal speed limit on Jan. 23, cops said.

After pulling over 26-year-old man near the corner of Bergen Street and Flatbush Avenue, at around 10 pm, police discovered his license had already been revoked for similar charges. — Mike McLaughlin

77th Precinct

PROSPECT HEIGHTS
Stone's throw
A vandal smashed the rear window of a man's car with a barrage of rocks on Jan. 23.

The man discovered the damage to his white Honda Accord, which was parked in a parking lot on Pacific Street near Carlton Avenue, at around 5 pm.

One-hit wonder

A motorist sideswiped a 35-year-old man who was crossing Washington Avenue on Jan. 27. The man was struck in the arm by the green Ford Explorer's rear view mirror, breaking the glass, but not seriously injuring the man.

The driver sped away from the incident, which occurred at 1:25 pm near Sterling Place.

68th Precinct

BAY RIDGE / DYKER HTS
Lock windows
Two apartments near 8 am were broken into and ransacked on Jan. 15 by thieves who simply slid open their unlocked windows.

The first burglary occurred at 8 am when someone opened the rear window of an apartment on Eighth Avenue between 62nd and 63rd streets and made off with \$5,500 and a PlayStation video game system.

Minutes later, police say someone climbed the fire escape of a

Officer mugged

An enforcement officer from the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development was mugged — in full uniform! — on Jan. 25.

Police say two men approached the 26-year-old woman on the corner of 77th Street and Sixth Avenue at around 6:30 pm and asked her, "What are you doing here by yourself?"

At that moment, the inspector's radio transmitted a signal, and the anxious perps inquired, "What — are you a cop?"

Then, without wasting time, one perp ripped the shield off her shirt and the other perp grabbed her radio before fleeing.

Pink rob

Four punks beat up and robbed an 11-year-old boy who was walking to school on Jan. 23.

Police say the gang approached the boy from behind at 8 am and began punching him in the stomach and head. After the victim fell to the ground, on the corner of 66th Street and 10th Avenue, the boys took \$7 from his pocket.

Costly dreams

A 25-year-old man was robbed of \$4,120 worth of property right under his nose while he was sleeping at a 93rd Street hotel.

Someone entered the man's room in the hotel, which is between Third and Fourth avenues, after he fell asleep on Jan. 26. By the time he awoke, his laptop, cellphone, watch and cash were all missing.

Police say that there were no signs of forced entry — nor was there a camera on the floor to film who might have done it.

Home burglary

A Gelson Avenue home was broken into and ransacked on Jan. 23 — and the victim lost a computer.

Police say that when the 22-year-old resident returned home at 9:15 am, she found her bed messed up and her jewelry strewn all over the place.

Further inspection revealed that the thief had made off with the laptop and \$20 from the home, which is between 88th and 90th streets. — Joe Jordan

WEIRDO! Gunman invades nail salon, has women lift shirts

By Adam F. Hutton
The Brooklyn Paper

A gunman barged into an India Street nail salon and stole \$267 from two terrified employees on Jan. 23.

The victims told police that the robber rang the store's bell at about 7:20 pm, and pulled a mask over his face just before he was allowed inside.

Once in the store, which is between Manhattan Avenue and McGuinness Boulevard, he strode directly to a tin can where the shop kept its money.

The first employee began to scream, prompting a second employee to come out from a backroom to investigate.

This apparently startled the robber, who then pulled a gun, pointed it at the second employee's head and directed both victims to the back of the salon.

According to the report, the masked man also demanded that the women pull up their shirts. But his aim was not intimidation, but security.

When neither of the women complied, he pulled their shirts over their heads to frustrate their ability to pursue him.

94th Precinct

WMSBURG / GREENPOINT
Lover's quarrel

A 27-year-old woman who was arguing with her boyfriend lost her purse to an opportunistic thief at the corner of Manhattan Avenue and India Street on Jan. 27.

The victim told police she was having a fight with her boyfriend as they walked down Manhattan Avenue at 1 am. She lost her temper and took a swing at him with her purse. In the course of attacking her man, she lost control of the purse and it fell to the ground, and was grabbed by the thief.

Jewelry thief

A burglar broke into a Nassau Avenue apartment building on Jan. 21 and made off with \$10,000 in jewelry.

The burglar broke in through the front door of the building, which is located between Kingsland Avenue and Sutton Street, ripping the deadbolt out of the frame sometime between 10 am and 2 pm.

The perp then busted down the door of an apartment belonging to a 68-year-old woman. Once inside, he stole 10 rings, four bracelets, a watch and a laptop computer.

Tool thief

A handyman lost thousands of dollars in tools when a burglar broke into his van while he was working on a North 10th Street home on Jan. 21.

The man police his van was parked between Kent and Wythe avenues from 11:15 am to 2 pm when someone broke into it.

The thief snatched a load of tools including two gas-powered

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The thief snatched a load of tools including two gas-powered

88th Precinct

FT GREENE / CLINTON HILL
Punch 'n' rob

Four thugs punched a Grand Avenue pedestrian on Jan. 22 and knocked him to the ground, before stealing his iPod and wallet.

The 30-year-old victim had been walking along Grand Avenue, between Gates and Putnam avenues, when one of the thugs demanded, "Give me your money!"

Craftsman hit

A woodworker at a investigations arts institute in Clinton Hill had his laptop computer stolen after he left it in a classroom on Jan. 18.

The 27-year-old artisan left the fully loaded computer in the classroom in a school building on St. James Place between Clifton Place and Lafayette Avenue.

When he returned at 1 pm, the machine, valued at \$10,000 thanks to all the software that had been installed on it, was gone.

Bistro break-in

A thief broke into a DeKalb Avenue bistro and stole \$3,700 worth of equipment on Jan. 25.

The 48-year-old proprietor closed the restaurant, at Clermont Avenue, at 2 am. When he returned the next morning, he discovered that someone had ransacked the place, stealing three amplifiers, a cash register, a hammer drill, a DeWalt cordless drill, a Pioneer turntable, a case of Shiraz red wine, \$1,700, a video iPod, and a half-case of Hennessy cognac.

Laundry cleaned

A 24-hour Putnam Avenue Laundromat was a crime scene twice in two days.

In the first incident, on Jan. 25 at 9:45 am, a 49-year-old woman left her bag in a laundry cart while checking on her clothing. An observant thief seized the opportunity — and a Louis Vuitton backpack that contained a \$300 purse and a bunch of keys.

The next day, at 1:45 am, a woman in red walked into the Laundromat and used the bathroom, according to a 47-year-old employee. After she left, a man came in and started yelling at the employee, demanding, "What did you say to my girlfriend?"

He then picked up a clipboard from the counter and hit the employee over the head, leaving a small cut on his forehead.

Hat-shop heist

A thief broke into the rear door of a beloved DeKalb Avenue hat shop and stole nearly \$600 worth of equipment from its basement.

The shop owner said he last entered the basement of the store, at Clermont Avenue, on Jan. 19. When he left, he locked the door behind him. When he returned on Jan. 25, the basement door was ajar and damaged. Missing was a Fiberglas ladder, a cable compressor and a DeWalt reciprocating saw.

Car stolen

A thief stole a Ford from in front of its owner's Willoughby Avenue home on Jan. 27.

The 56-year-old owner of the 2002 white Econoline van, worth about \$6,000 and popular with working men and grunge rockers, said she'd parked it on South Elliott Place at 10:30 pm on Jan. 26. — Dana Rubinstein

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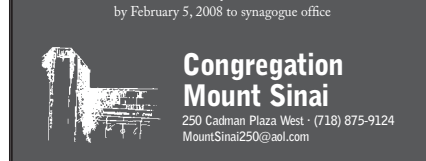
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OUR OPINION



For the first time in a very long time, the New York presidential primary actually matters, thanks to a decision to move the date of the voting to this Tuesday instead of its usual date after the nominating process is all but decided.

As such, New Yorkers have a greater responsibility to make considered choices. The Brooklyn Paper selected candidates who are most likely to restore America's position as a shining beacon to the world while meeting the needs of our people at home:

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY Barack Obama

After 16 years of virtually non-stop partisan bickering, the nation can ill-afford to elect a Democrat whose candidacy exists — in no small part, mind you — to settle old scores with the GOP.

Sen. Hillary Clinton has touted her experience — but as the popularity of Obama's campaign shows, the country is crying out for change.

True, on most substantive issues, Clinton and Obama hold similar views. But Obama is the candidate whose message of hope can cut through the partisan morass, bring our nation together and begin to restore America's damaged credibility overseas. We're not discounting the challenges ahead, but the time has come for a president who appeals to our idealism, not our partisanship.

Voters should note that the Democratic Party will distribute delegates on a proportional, rather than winner-take-all, basis this year, meaning that every vote will count. Sen. Clinton's "home field advantage" may not her the most votes statewide, but Obama can still pick up dozens of delegates — delegates who will be needed if this battle goes all the way to the national convention in August.

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY John McCain

The Republican Party has offered Brooklyn voters only one real choice: Sen. John McCain.

The Arizona senator is consistent, candid and intellectually honest. Even when we disagree with McCain, we leave the debate with respect for his position.

We also respect that he has bucked his party on immigration, understanding that America can't simply arrest and deport all 12 million "illegal" immigrants, whose only crime is that they sought jobs in the Land of Opportunity.

Other candidates talk about "giving back" to the nation by getting out of Iraq. But, lest we forget, McCain, who was tortured nearly to death during five years as a prisoner in Vietnam, has lived a life of "public service" in the true sense of the term.



LETTERS

Builder of rejected 'mews' plan now seeks 'Amity'

To the editor,

Time Equities and its partner, Lucky Boy, does not want to present a project that does not have community support ("City rejects historic housing plan," Jan. 12). We thought the mews approach at 110 Amity St. did have that support because it was supported verbally and in writing by a number of community residents and local architects at meetings we held in November and December.

The mews design was also recommended for approval by the Landmarks staff that reviewed the plan. It may be that some community members who took issue with the mews did not attend these meetings.

The benefit of the landmarking process is that it gives all stakeholders a chance to be heard. Several concerns that arose at the meetings led to changes.

We value feedback from the community and the commission and will continue to address concerns, such as those that arose in the early meetings that led to design revisions of the Henry Street facade of the new townhouse.

At this point, we will re-conceive the project in a traditional street wall approach and try to present a plan that is responsive to the input received at the most recent Landmarks hearing. As we did last time, we will reach out to the community and Landmarks staff prior to presenting the final concept to the commission.

Francis Greenberger, Manhattan

The writer is CEO and chairman of Time Equities, the developer of the recently rejected plan to build townhouses along a private mews at 110 Amity St. in Cobble Hill.

It's not a park

To the editor,

All I read are more fantasies about the Brooklyn Bridge non-park ("Supermarket could come to 'park,'" Jan. 12).

The latest vapor about a supermarket in looming bulk that is 340 Furman St. is just a feeble attempt to keep that doomed project alive. When originally declared, this building was to have "gallery space," implying stylish, high-end shopping. It was also rumored to include a Trader Joe's as part of the shopping "experience."

Since then, Trader Joe's has found a more approachable, and therefore profitable, site on Court Street.

As far as the non-park goes, it is interesting that when the Empire State Development Corporation even mentions the non-park, it is also gloom — the Tobacco Warehouse is falling down according to one of your recent stories ("Empire falls," Jan. 19).

Meanwhile, the agency is about to knock down the Purchase Building. Thus, while one building is declared in imminent danger of collapse, another building that is structurally fine is going to be demolished solely because its presence might interfere with

sight lines from the proposed apartment tower at Fulton Ferry. That structure seems to have vanished from plans now. Since that is not being built thanks to the lagging luxury housing market, why take down the Purchase Building?

Barbara Chertoff, Brooklyn Heights

More Trekklash

To the editor,

I was a member of the Patrick Stewart Network for a while, and I didn't find the article on Patrick Stewart at all insulting ("Beam them to BAM, Scotty: Trekkies in heaven with 'Picard' as Macbeth," Jan. 12). In fact, thought it was pretty accurate and funny.

By the way, I wouldn't mess with these PSN people. If you haven't already noticed, there is a rather conspicuous lack of irony among them (read through a few posts on their Yahoo groups forum).

Wilhelm Meister, Bushwick

Level playing field

To the editor,

Your recent article about the Pratt Store ("FRAMED: Pratt Store risks local biz," Jan. 19) reminded so many of your readers, artists, customers, neighbors, and friends of Clinton Hill Simply Art & Framing Gallery of the positive influence my business has played in their lives.

It was heartwarming to hear their comments and insistence that the business will continue and will grow despite Pratt Institute's business decision.

While I certainly welcome competition, you can't just put a lightweight in the same ring with a heavyweight and call it boxing.

Lurita L.B. Brown, Clinton Hill

The writer is owner of Clinton Hill Simply Art & Framing Gallery.

Trim Two Trees plan

To the editor,

The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects recently had a presentation of the Two Trees proposed high-rise building on Dock Street in DUMBO ("Wallenda again fights his neighbors over Dock Street apartment tower," Dec. 22). The architects, Beyer Blinder & Belle, did their usual good job in presenting a well-thought-out solution, which reflects the old factory building facades.

However, the Chapter has some concerns regarding this proposal, as follows:

1. We would like to see the site returned to be consistent with the adjoining property. This will prevent the area from being spotted to meet the desires of each individual property owner.

Also, the change will automatically limit the excessive height of the tower adjoining the Brooklyn Bridge and our recommendations

2. We are not in favor of the proposed elimination of the required setbacks for the south end of the tower closest to the Brooklyn Bridge. This portion of the tower, which is sited at a 45-degree angle to the bridge, is too close to the bridge and the required setbacks help keep the upper portion of the tower further away from the bridge.

3. We are opposed to the proposal to eliminate the required rear yard by offering a 30 feet of open space on an adjoining property, which will give the Two Trees property a light and air easement. The main purpose of the rear yard requirement is to provide block ventilation, which is usually 60 feet wide, and should not be compromised.

Granting this type of a variance would establish a very poor precedent, since any property owner could buy an adjoining property, take back a light and air easement, and then sell the adjoining property, whose value would not have been affected since it also needs a 30-foot space for light and air. The property owner, now with an easement, would then apply for a waiver of the rear yard requirement, destroying the concept of block ventilation.

The Chapter accepts the exempting from "floor area" a portion of the community facility for a public school and a portion of the parking as both are needed facilities in the DUMBO area. We would, of course, like to see a lower building so close to the Brooklyn Bridge and our recommendations

are aimed in that direction.

I. Donald Weston, Brooklyn Heights
The writer is chairman of the urban design committee for the Brooklyn chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Bus roots

To the editor,

You recently announced that the B77 and B67 bus routes might be extended to South Ferry, but did not specify how they would get there. This reminded me of one of my father's favorite stories. When the great Jimmy Durante asked if his Manhattan-bound trolley was going over the bridge, the conductor replied, "If it don't, you'll get a damn good ducking!"

Phil Forbes, Red Hook
Editor's note: The buses would reach Manhattan with the help of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, so riders are expected to stay dry.

Send a letter

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DECISION '08 BROOKLYN VOTES TUESDAY, FEB. 5

Boro Dems can't make up their minds

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Meet Erica Satlin. She's smart. She's young. She's opinionated. So why can't she make up her mind about which Democrat to support on Tuesday?

"The day after the Obama victories in Iowa and South Carolina, I got pretty into Barack Obama," said Satlin. "And the day after a Hillary Clinton victory, I got into her."

Satlin said she'd probably hold off on making a decision until she rolled out of bed on Feb. 5, when 22 states, including New York, will host primaries for both major parties.

Her predicament is a common one. Brooklynites — despite their reputation for having an opinion, or two, on everything — are having some trouble choosing between the junior senators from New York and Illinois.

Take Eric Denby. Even this 35-year-old who has been in the political business (having served as Borough President Markowitz's spokesman) remains, as he put it, "in the last stages of deciding."

What's the problem? It's not that he doesn't know the issues, of course. It's that he doesn't have the requisite comfort level.

"I feel like I would love to see someone like Obama be his, and how he's able to be like him, rather

than someone sculpted by consultants... He talks the way people I know talk."

Then again, Clinton has her strengths. "Hillary, you know that she's good, you know that will be a good president," said Denby.

For goodness sake, the indecision even extends to politicians, who generally like to take sides, if only to reap the political rewards of having their (youman in the White House.

Yet even Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), one of the city's more outspoken politicians, can't choose.

"I'm struggling between my desire for change, versus Sen. Hillary Clinton's proven record in my district," said James, adding that she respected Clinton for refusing to take sides in the Atlantic Yards conflict (though many voters see her inability to take a stand as typical of Clinton's desire to not alienate any potential supporters).

Then again, James also attended an enormous Obama fundraiser in August at the Marriott.

Amidst this indecision, one thing's for sure: Brooklyn is a coveted prize, thanks to its 81,500 registered Democrats — more than any other New York county.

And, of course, a few Brooklynites have made up their minds. Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), who has campaigned for Clinton, professed little doubt she would win the borough. Yet Obama has an angle on hometown, too.



Supporters showed their colors last Sunday in Park Slope.

At both the Marriott in August and at a more intimate fundraiser in Brooklyn Heights in July, Obama played up his ties to the borough. He lived in Park Slope for a year-and-a-half, and for a few months in the Heights, where he liked to jog along the Promenade.

Alan Fleishman, a Democratic district leader and boardmember of the gay Democratic club Lambda, said he, too, would be pulling the lever for Clinton, whom he called "extremely smart [and] electable."

"I am ready for a black person to be president, but I don't know that the rest of the country is," said Fleishman. "The glass ceiling for a woman would be easier to break than the color thing."

But for others, Obama's decisive win in Iowa, a mostly white state, indicated otherwise.

"In the Iowa primary America has shown they're willing to treat individuals as individuals," said Clinton Miller, the reverend of the Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Clinton Hill who first endorsed Obama this summer.

Miller said his 900-member congregation was leaning toward Obama, too, though there is certainly a gulf in the African-American community. "More of the mainstream leaders who have benefited from the Clintons have endorsed the Clintons — and a lot of that has to do with age," said Miller, 40. "The younger black leadership seems to favor Sen. Obama."

Obama's youthful Brooklyn cadre includes state Assemblyman Karim Camara (D-Crown Heights), congressional hopeful Chris Owens, and state Sen. Eric Adams (D-Park Slope).

My ankle is having an affair

I'm cheating on my doctor. Maybe I should feel guilty — I mean, my doctor and I did share that one great night at the cast party — but I had to break away. I had to survive. I won't be taken for granted in this relationship!

Loyal readers of my multi-part "Broken Ankle Chronicles," will recall that last week, my doctor did not return repeated calls, despite my messages explaining that I was "experiencing considerable pain." (I also admitted last week that I used to leave many such messages on ex-girlfriends' machines, but unlike with doctors, I understood when my former soul mates did not return the call.)

That said, I was pleased to discover that I wasn't the only one who was frustrated with my doctor's lack of concern about my excruciating pain. The day after my groundbreaking column hit the stands, I got this e-mail from Dr. Tom Lyons, the chief of the orthopedic trauma unit at Lutheran Medical Center:

"I'm sorry to hear you have been getting the run-around with your ankle," he wrote. "It's really very simple: Call my office, and I'll be glad to see you — gratis."

He also added, wisely, "Congratulations on your 'Editor of the Year' award." (By the way, I mentioned that I won the Suburban Newspapers of America "Editor of the Year" award last month? I haven't? Well, thanks, Dr. Tom!)

Now, perhaps I should've felt led to even consider Lyons's provocative invitation to have an affair behind my doctor's back. But if being an American nowadays means anything, it means having no brand loyalty to wards doctors — especially one I picked out of the GHI directory any way. I devote more attention to picking a car mechanic than I do towards picking medical professionals (well,

THE BROOKLYN ANKLE By Gersh Kuntzman



At left, Gersh's new, caring doctor, Tom Lyons, works on the Editor of the Year's broken ankle. At right, Marty signs the cast.

cars are more complicated).

The last bit of guilt evaporated when Lyons told me that he would fit me for a waterproof cast so I could go walking through the surf at Pete Velez, yet another reference to my "Editor of the Year" award.

Waterproof cast? My other "doctor" had never even mentioned that such things exist. So there I was on Wednesday getting my pool-ready brace from Lyons, who also handed me a brochure that stated explicitly: "Contact your doctor if you have pain."

Maybe it's the illicit nature of our affair, maybe it's all this clandestine surfing, but I think I'm in love.

Before getting my new cast, I dropped by Borough Hall to get fellow broken ankle sufferer Marty Markowitz to sign my cast.

Before taking up my Sharpie, Markowitz told the story of his 2001 fall that caused the three-state senator to break his ankle in five places (three more than me?) and require surgery and pins.

He also reminded me that he won the race for the borough presidency that fall, so there's a lesson in that for all you kids out there: You can break your ankle and still grow up to be borough president!

"Brooklyn ankle club," Markowitz wrote above his John Hancock. As a result of Markowitz's sympathy

— and his collectible artwork — I am selling this priceless heilhoorn on eBay to raise money for Markowitz's Camp Brooklyn charity.

Go to www.ebay.com, auction number 208197010864, and place your bid today. The auction ends on Feb. 9 at midnight. I'm thinking that between my sweat and Marty Markowitz's signature, this footnote to history can raise some big bucks for charity. Bid today!

Go to www.ebay.com to bid. All money from the winning bid will really go to Camp Brooklyn. For information on the charity, visit www.brooklyn-usa.org/Pages/awards_happening_in_Brooklyn/campbrooklyn.htm.

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GOPers eye McCain after Rudy's fall



At first, Bay Ridge Republican Bob Capano was backing Rudy Giuliani, but he later flipped to McCain.

By Mike McLaughlin The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Republicans — yes, they exist! — are determined not to go down with Rudy Giuliani's sinking ship.

Most of the borough's few elected Republicans and many of its elephant-adorned activists had sworn allegiance to "America's Mayor" months ago, but when he suddenly dropped out of the race on Wednesday, most scrambled aboard the bandwagon of Arizona Sen. John McCain.

"It's not Rudy on the top of the ticket, McCain would have the strongest pull at the polls," said Craig Eaton, chairman of the county Republican Committee.

Only a few days ago, party stalwarts were standing behind Giuliani as they had for more than a year. But his departure caused flip-flopping.

Flip: "More than any other candidate, [Rudy] believes he needs to stay on the offensive in the war on terror," Young Republic Club President Robert Capano said last week.

Flip: "There's not much of a difference between Rudy Giuliani and John McCain," Capano said on Wednesday. "McCain would indeed be the strongest candidate to take on a Democratic."

Indeed, in these mournful post-Giuliani days, every Brooklyn GOPer seemed to be backing McCain.

"He's an electable Republican and he'll be infinitely better than whoever is the Democratic candidate," said Eric Miller, of the 75-person-strong Brownstone Republican Club.

Sure, he says that now, but last week he too planned to cast a ballot for Giuliani, because "McCain has some positions on global warming, interrogation of terrorists and business issues that are more than to the left than a lot of us are."

That's a sentiment Miller doesn't often share in Brooklyn, where Democrats outnumber Republicans seven to one.

"You have to really believe to be a Republican in New York City," said Miller, "and you don't bring it up at cocktail parties."

BOSSERT FOR SALE...

Continued from page 1

"At the Bossert, and at all of their buildings, the Witnesses have set a very high standard in terms of taking good care of their properties," said Brooklyn Heights Association Executive Director Judy Stanton. "Brooklyn Heights has benefited from the care and attention that they have put in to their buildings and I hope that the new owners will keep up that tradition."

There certainly is plenty of tradition to keep up. The Bossert, a 14-story Italian Renaissance Revival building at 98 Montague St., was constructed

by Brooklyn lumber tycoon Louis Bossert in 1909.

After the Witnesses bought it in 1988, it underwent a complete rehab that included restoration of the crystal chandelier and stone columns in the hotel's lobby and the renovation of the famous Marine Roof restaurant on the building's top floor.

"When we bought the building, the Marine Roof was in complete ruin," said Richard Devine, the Watchtower Society's building manager. "But we rebuilt the space as a banquet hall for our events and, of course, that will be available to the new owners. It's a gorgeous space with stunning views of Manhattan."

While the Witnesses bought it in 1988, it underwent a complete rehab that included restoration of the crystal chandelier and stone columns in the hotel's lobby and the renovation of the famous Marine Roof restaurant on the building's top floor.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 2, 2008

Score!

The borough's bowl runs over with Super parties

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

On Sunday, Feb. 3, the New York Giants and New England Patriots will be facing off in Phoenix, Ariz. in Super Bowl XLII. Here in Brooklyn, however, there will be an equally important competition: Who's having the best Super Bowl party?

While plenty of folks spend Super Sunday on a pal's couch swigging beer and shoveling up nachos (see recipe on page 8), some Brooklyn bars are stepping it up this year with high-definition televisions, all-you-can-eat buffets, drink specials and more.

GO Brooklyn left no wing undipped in sorting out where the borough's Most Valuable Parties will be, so check out one of these events and leave the fumbles — on and off the field — to the Patriots.

Roxbury

Hosted by NYGirls.com Web mistress Reby Sky — best known for her work in the July 2007 issue of Playboy — the Super Bowl party at Roxbury in Bay Ridge promises to be one of the borough's best. And while Sky might be the main attraction, football fans can also take in the big game on five plasma televisions and a projection screen while enjoying a "tailgate buffet" of chicken wings, hot dogs, hamburgers and heroes.

The Super Bowl party at Roxbury (315 93rd St. at Third Avenue in Bay Ridge) begins at 4 p.m. Admission is \$80 and includes food and open bar for the duration of the game. For information, call (917) 748-0029 or visit www.thesuperjant.com.



Red Star

This Greenpoint newcomer — open for only three months — is going to have one of the biggest Super Bowl parties in North Brooklyn. In addition to a full menu of comfort food like macaroni and cheese, chicken wings, burgers and Kobe beef hot dogs, the bar will be unveiling its new signature drink, the Red Star. Made from vodka, rum, straw-



berry liqueur and a mix of secret ingredients, the drink sounds strong — but you won't need double vision to catch the game; Red Star has 15 42-inch televisions showing the game in HD. Add the bar's super-up sound system to the mix, and even the folks in the University of Phoenix stadium won't have a better experience.

The Super Bowl party at Red Star (37 Greenpoint Ave. at West Street in Greenpoint) will begin at noon. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 349-0149 or visit www.redstarmy.com.

Reby with a cause: Playboy bunny Reby Sky, aka New York Giants QB (left), will lead the cheers for Eli Manning (above) at Roxbury's Super Bowl party in Bay Ridge on Sunday, Feb. 3.

Water Street Restaurant

DUMBO might be known for its artsy side, but neighborhood stalwart Water Street Restaurant is planning its first-ever Super Bowl party that will show off just how sporting the nabe can be. With half-priced beer and a menu of re-diced-price appetizers — expect chicken fingers, French fries and the ubiquitous Buffalo wings — and two floors of festivities, including two eight-foot television screens and a live DJ, this pub's party is guaranteed to please.

The Super Bowl party at Water Street Restaurant (66 Water St. at Main Street in DUMBO) begins at 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 625-9352 or visit www.waterstreetrestaurant.com.

Brazen Head

A good game of football always calls for good beer to accompany it. Quench your

See SCORE on page 8

last week, it might be time to drop that "wee" as well. Leitch and his Deadspin denizens spend their days skewering the sports world with a deadly eye and sharpened tongue. While Leitch also writes for other national publications — he's in Phoenix this week writing columns about the Super Bowl for Sporting News's Web site — Deadspin is his home.

"So many people want my job," Leitch said. "I feel lucky."

His other home — where he works from — is Cobble Hill, where Leitch has lived for three and a half years (with a brief exile to the Upper West Side).

For Leitch, Brooklyn "is the most beautiful place in the world in the summer" when he hits up outdoor Cobble Hill spots like Trout and Pacifico or catches a Cyclones game in Coney Island.

"The community feel reminds me of the Midwest,"

See GOD SAVE on page 9

'Fan' empowerment

Cobble Hill sports blogger pens essay collection

By Jeffrey Cretan
for The Brooklyn Paper

Try and compare Will Leitch, 32, to literary stalwart and fellow Smith Street regular Jonathan Lethem, and you'll get a hearty laugh and a fake Irish accent.

"I'm but a wee humble sportswriter,"

Leitch told GO Brooklyn. "I'm not sure we'd run in the same circles."

He might wear the humility well, but the term sportswriter falls short. As the founding editor of the Web's preeminent sports blog, Deadspin.com, Leitch is the master of a world of "Sports news without access, favor or discretion." And with his new book, "God Save the Fan," which appeared on shelves just



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With plenty of network television in reruns thanks to the writer's strike, it's easy to yearn for time with some of your favorite, imaginary friends. Starting Sunday, however, you'll no longer have to go without your weekly fix.

That evening, "3800 Elizabeth," a new live-action "sitcom for the stage" will premiere the first of six brand new episodes (and one rerun) at The Battle Ranch, a performance space in Williamsburg.

Combining the ideas of serialized theater and of friends gathering together to watch television each week, writer, director and producer Aaron Baker decided to stage the show. Baker's "3800 Elizabeth" focuses on the adventures of a bartender named AJ, his ex-girlfriend Sonja (played by Izabel Rivers, above) and his childhood friend Mike.

"Part of what I wanted to do with that was give an example of what I think sitcoms should be like," Baker, a Bushwick resident, told GO Brooklyn. "I think contemporary comedy has fallen into a tendency of resorting to humor that I don't think is very funny, especially stereotype-based humor. I was looking at comedy that draws more on absurdity and weirdness."

Baker, who said that his only previous directing experience was behind a camera on "short films that no one has seen," chose Williamsburg to stage his show because of his experience working with experimental theater groups in the area, such as the Brick Theater.

"I think Williamsburg has a good demographic for the show," he said.

And while sitcoms on the regular old television can reel in millions of viewers for cash-in spots, the space where Baker is staging "Elizabeth 3800" can only hold 40 viewers — so instead of just setting your TiVo, you'll actually have to get there early. But, as of press time, Baker promises his live-action sitcom wouldn't have commercial interruptions.

"Elizabeth 3800" will premiere at 8 pm on Feb. 3 at The Battle Ranch (111 Conyngham St. at Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg). Additional episodes will be performed on Sundays at 8 pm through March 16. For information, visit www.3800elizabeth.com.

— Adam Rathe

MUSIC

Simon sings

Tickets for Paul Simon's 15-night concert series, "Love in Hard Times" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, don't go on sale until Feb. 11, but the event has been years in the making.

Culling material from Simon's wide-ranging career, including his 1998 Broadway show "The Capeman," and a slew of solo albums, the three productions that make up the BAM run will each focus on a different aspect of Simon's musical influences.

"Songs from The Capeman," running from April 1 through April 6, will be a concert staging — featuring a guest spot from Little Anthony and the Imperials — of "The Capeman"; "Under African Skies," running from April 9 through April 13, will find Simon joined by a cast of international musicians as he explores the South African and Brazilian music that was prominently featured in his record, "Graceland"; and "American Tunes," running from April 23 through April 27, will revisit songs from throughout Simon's career and will feature collaborators such as indie rock band Grizzly Bear.

"Paul Simon's vast body of work over 40 years warranted a new kind of retrospective," BAM President Karen Brooks Hopkins said in a statement released Jan. 29. "BAM wanted to give audiences over an extended period of time the opportunity to experience the totality of his talent and contribution to popular music."

"Love in Hard Times: The Music of Paul Simon" will open with "Songs from The Capeman" at 8 pm on April 1 at the BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene). Tickets, which go on sale Feb. 11, are \$30-\$65. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org.

— Adam Rathe



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Food for the home team

Partying on the couch? Try these snacks from local chefs

To often, staying home to watch a game involves devouring microwave pizza and pretzels. This year, with the help of chef Juventino Avila of Bonita restaurants in Fort Greene and Williamsburg and Marc Elliot, chef at Williamsburg's Elote, GO Brooklyn is bringing you easy-to-make gourmet recipes that will eliminate your need for that jar of onion dip. Well, almost.

Juventino Avila's nachos

7 oz. tortilla chips
2 oz. cilantro
2 oz. red onion
4 oz. pinto beans
4 oz. grated cheddar cheese
Pickled jalapeno peppers to taste

Pre-heat broiler.
Place tortilla chips on a flat plate and sprinkle cilantro and diced red onion on top. Add jalapeno peppers to taste. Pour pinto beans all around, making sure to include enough liquid from the beans to prevent the chips from burning. Sprinkle grated cheddar cheese on top of the tortilla chips and beans, covering the entire dish. (If cheese is layered too thickly, these undeniably will not melt.)

Place in broiler for 3 to 5 minutes. Check every few minutes to make sure the chips are not burning or the cheese has not over-melted and dried out.
Serve with a side of Mexican "crema fresca" or "crema fraiche."

Avila's guacamole

2 oz. diced red onion
1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
2 tablespoons diced jalapeno peppers
6 ripe Haas avocados
2 tablespoons of limejuice
Salt to taste

Place the diced red onion into a "molcajete" (mortar), and press with a "tepetlate" (pestle). Add chopped cilantro, diced jalapeno peppers and salt and mash. Next, add avocados and continue to press with the "tepetlate" until you've reached desired consistency. Add lime juice and mix well. Taste and adjust ingredients as needed.

Serve with tortilla chips or warm, handmade tortillas.
Juventino Avila is the chef at Bonita restaurants (243 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 622-5300 and 338 Bedford Ave. at South Third Street in Williamsburg.) For more information, call (718) 384-9500 or visit the Web site at www.bonitanyc.com.



Touchdown: Bonita chef Juventino Avila suggests his nacho and guacamole recipes for a tasty Super Bowl celebration at home.

Marc Elliot's Cowboy Burners

18 jalapeno peppers
Half-pound of bacon
4 oz. cream cheese
3 tablespoons cilantro
Half-bunch of scallions
Salt

Render bacon until crispy and well done. Mash,

or put into a food processor, with cream cheese, scallions and cilantro. Then, while wearing gloves, halve 18 peppers lengthwise and scoop out the ribs and seeds. Boil halved peppers in well-salted water for three minutes. Once peppers are cooked, stuff with cream cheese mixture and bake at 400 degrees for five minutes.

Marc Elliot is the chef at Elote (366 Union Ave. at Powers Street in Williamsburg.) For more information, call (718) 599-2655.

SCORE...

Continued from page 7

thirst for both at Brazen Head's party in Cobble Hill, where all beers, including the hand-pulled, cork-conditioned ales, are going for \$4 per pint. The game will be shown on four televisions, and chicken wings and other snacks will be on the house. Whether you're there for the game or there for the beer, just be there.

The Super Bowl party at Brazen Head (228 Atlantic Ave. at Court Street in Cobble Hill) begins at 6 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 488-0430 or visit www.brazenheadbrooklyn.com.

Pacific Standard

Although Park Slope newcomer Pacific Standard is California-themed, with a New York team in the big game, it will be celebrating like all good Brooklynites. The game will be shown on one huge projection screen and a smaller TV set, and football fans can down the bar's microbrews for the unheard-of price of \$18 per pitcher.

The bar doesn't serve food, but you can order in from local eateries like Canteen (57 Fourth Ave. at Bergen Street in Park Slope, (718)



Park Slope's Pacific Standard will offer \$18 pitchers of microbrew.

789-2133, www.canteennyc.net to keep up your strength for the half-time quiz, where the lucky winner will be treated to a \$20 bar tab.

The Super Bowl party at Pacific Standard (82 Fourth Ave. at St. Marks Place in Park Slope) begins at 5 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 858-1951 or visit www.pacificstandardbrooklyn.com.

The Lighthouse Tavern

With the game showing on six flat-screen televisions and an 8-by-6-foot projector, The Lighthouse Tavern's party in Park Slope is definitely all about watching the game. When half-time comes, however, the mood will lighten with free Buffalo wings, a raffle for a free weekend getaway and drink specials. Revelers wearing a Giants jersey can partake of 52 shots during the game, while everyone else can score 52 Coors Light.

The Super Bowl party at The Lighthouse Tavern (243 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope) begins at noon. Admission is free, but seating can be reserved for \$10-\$75. For information, call (718) 788-8070 or visit www.lighthouseatavern.net.

Mitchell's

At owner Michel Issa's Super Bowl party, guests will be torn between enjoying the game and enjoying the food coming out of the kitchen. In addition to buy-one-get-one-free beers, Mitchell's will be serving 25-cent Buffalo wings and half-price sandwiches — like "The Godfather" which comes with Italian cold cuts, provolone and mozzarella cheese, sweet peppers, lettuce, tomato and balsamic dressing — to the customers packed in to catch the

Score with more

With our hometown team in the Super Bowl, almost everyone in Brooklyn will be glued to a television set on Sunday, Feb. 3. Some folks opt for big parties and some stay at home, but others would prefer a quiet place to watch the game over beers. If you're looking to get off the couch and onto a bar stool, these bars will have the game on in a neighborhood near you:

- Angry Wade's**
222 Smith St. at Butler Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 488-7253.
- Bar Vendetta**
550 Court St. at Ninth Street in Carroll Gardens, (732) 939-4054.
- Heights Cafe**
84 Montague St. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 625-5555, www.heightscafe.com.
- Last Exit Bar and Lounge**
136 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-0198, www.lastexitbar.com.
- Mulholland's**
312 Grand St. at Roebeling Street in Williamsburg, (718) 486-3473, www.mulhollandsbklyn.com.
- Rocky Sullivan's**
34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-8050, www.rockysullivan.com.
- Skinflints Restaurant**
7902 Fifth Ave. at 79th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-1116, www.skinflintsrestaurant.com.
- Spike Hill**
184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737, www.spikehill.com.
- 200 Fifth**
200 Fifth Ave. at Union Street in Park Slope, (718) 638-2925, www.200fifth.com.
- The Wicked Monk**
8415 Fifth Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0601, www.wickedmonk.com.

game on one of three big-screen televisions.
The Super Bowl party at Mitchell's (259 Flatbush Ave. at St. Marks Av-

enue in Prospect Heights) begins at 5 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 484-4114 or visit www.mitchellsbarandgrill.com.

BREAKING

naul fee to become a member.

For an equally fancy — if not members-only — vibe, party types in Williamsburg can head over to **Hotel Delmano** (82 Berry St. at North Ninth Street in Williamsburg), the new bar from the owners of Union Pool that brings high-end

CHEWS

door at 589 Vanderbilt Ave. was the gateway to **Weather Up**, a fancy, soon-to-open cocktail bar run by Kathryn Weatherburn, one of the gin gams behind Manhattan's East Side Company Bar.

But when one unmarked door opens, another always closes. Over the

past weeks we've said goodbye to a few other friends: **Lula, The Prospect Cafe** and **2nd Street Cafe** in Park Slope and Smith Street's **Sapodilla** closed for good. It's always sad to lose a friend, but the thought of restaurants to come — like **Any Ruth's** soul food restaurant, opening in the old Gage and Tollner location on Fulton Mall in Downtown Brooklyn on Valentine's Day — will help keep our hearts beating strong.

Got a hot dining tip? Drop us a line at GO@BrooklynPaper.com.

— Adam Rathe

FREE Best-Selling Author Series
@ Kingsborough Community College

A.M. Homes — Tuesday, February 5 at 7pm
A.M. Homes's tales about the darker side of American middle-class life are at once surreal, disturbing, and hilarious. Her latest work is *The Mistress's Daughter*, a riveting memoir about what it means to be adopted and how all of us construct our sense of self and family.

David Baldacci — Tuesday, March 4 at 7:30pm
David Baldacci's blockbuster mysteries and thrillers include *Absolute Power* (made into a movie starring Clint Eastwood), *Total Control*, and his latest, *Stone Cold* (2007), which marks the return of Oliver Stone and the mysterious group that calls itself the Camel Club.

Dr. Howard Gardner — Thursday, March 27 at 7pm
Best known for his theory of multiple intelligences, Dr. Gardner will talk about factors that can produce work that is personally, socially, and economically beneficial.

Debby Applegate — Wednesday, April 16 at 7pm
Historian Debby Applegate won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for her riveting biography of Henry Ward Beecher, the Brooklyn preacher Abraham Lincoln called "the most influential man in America."

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: 718-368-5051 / Limit 2 FREE tickets per person

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 2

Thurs, Feb 7

RECEPTION: Umbra Gallery presents the exhibit "Histories are Mirrors: The Path of Conflict Through Afghanistan and Iraq" 6 pm to 8 pm, 111 Front St., suite 208. (212) 965-0197. Free.

LECTURE: Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a talk: "What's in a Name?" Learn who and what streets and neighborhoods are named for 6 pm. Fort Greene Visitors Center at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. (718) 722-3218. Free.

EAT, DRINK AND BE LITERARY: BAM Cafe at Brooklyn Academy of Music presents author Deborah Eisenberg. 548 includes dinner with wine. 6:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

AUTHOR TALK: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, The Dewck Center, presents "Brooklyn Independents: What's So Funny About Brooklyn?" Writers include Amy Sedaris, Gary Shteyngart, Ed Park and Anthony Winkler. 7 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

RECEPTION: 5 Plus 5 Gallery presents "8 Artists 8 Books," a group exhibition. 6 pm to 8 pm, 111 Front St. (718) 489-8383. Free.

SENIOR MEETING: Narrows Community Theater hosts its monthly meeting. 8 pm, Shore Hill Senior Center, 9000 Shore Rd. (718) 482-3173.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Wild Party." 8 pm. See Sat., Feb. 9.

Fri, Feb 8

SKATING UNDER THE STARS: Prospect Park Alliance Junior Committee hosts an evening of skating in Prospect Park's Wolman Rink. Prices begin at \$40. Ticket includes admission, skate rental, snacks and drinks. 5:30 pm to midnight. Enter park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 965-8988.

RECEPTION: Like the Spice Gallery presents the works of artist Rachel Beach and Nora Hering. 6:30 pm to midnight. Enter park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 389-5388. Free.

RECEPTION: Slender Studio presents "Millennial Classics," a studio show with a series of original oil paintings by David Nicholas Szaykowski. 5 pm to 9 pm, 285 Graham Ave. (718) 268-8588. Free.

TORTURE TALK: Rabbi Shlomo Yaffe explores "Torture and Ethical Dilemmas in Talmudic and Modern Jewish Law." 5:30 talk and dinner. 6 pm, Congregation B'nai Anshin of Brooklyn Heights, 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4880 ext. 18.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Wild Party." 8 pm. See Sat., Feb. 9.

DEBBAS LIVING ROOM: Performance of "Lisians." 8 pm. See Sat., Feb. 9.

Sat, Feb 9

OUTDOORS
EARLY BRIDING: at Marine Park. 8 am. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

ICE SKATING: at Prospect Park's Wolman Rink. \$5. \$3 kids and seniors. \$5 skate rental. Sessions at 10 am to 1 pm; 2 pm to 4 pm.

OTHER
DESIGNERS SHOWCASE: Local designers

LIST YOUR EVENT...
To list your event in Nine Days in Brooklyn, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: calendar@brooklynpaper.com; by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Suite 604, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 636-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.



No place like Homes: Aspiring novelists, take note! Award-winning writer A.M. Homes, who has written for everything from The New Yorker to "The L Word," will stop by Kingsborough Community College on Tuesday, Feb. 5 for a Q&A, book signing and discussion of her writing process.

to 6 pm; 7 pm to 10 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8999.

TAKE A HIKE: Join the Urban Park Rangers for a nature hike along Prospect Park's Lullwater Trail. Enjoy the beautiful winter scenery and learn about the park's flora and fauna. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. 1 pm. Call 311 for information. Free.

PERFORMANCE
MUSIC OFF THE SHELVES: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "John Corigliano: Mr. Tambourine Man." Soprano Amy Burton and members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic perform. 4 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch hosts a celebration of composer and violinist Leroy Jenkins. Wadada Leo Smith, Myra Melford, Thomas Buckner and Flux Quartet perform. \$10, \$7 students and seniors. 7 pm, Dewck Center, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Wild Party," a Roaring '20s musical. \$18, \$14 seniors and children 12 and younger. 8 pm, 199 14th St. (212) 352-3101.

DEBBAS LIVING ROOM: Performance of "Lisians." \$20, \$10 students and seniors (cash only). 8 pm, 14 Prospect Pl. Seating is very limited. Advance tickets at SMART TIX (212) 868-4444, www.smarttix.com.

OTHER
DESIGNERS SHOWCASE: Local designers

Black History Month events

Sat, Feb 2

FAMILY PROGRAM: Students from the Brooklyn Children's Museum's after school program will present art and performances celebrating Black History Month. 1 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch on Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

Sun, Feb 3

POLITICAL DISCUSSION: Law professor and columnist Patricia Williams discusses the 2008 election and the ramifications of an African-American candidate. 1:30 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

Mon, Feb 4

LECTURE: Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a talk on Weeksville: "Living Freely Everyday in Weeksville: Free Black Community of the Antebellum North." 7 pm, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.



Historic Weeksville is the subject of a lecture at Salt Marsh Nature Center on Feb. 4.

Sat, Feb 9

BLUES CONCERT: The Brooklyn Museum presents legendary bluesman Taj Mahal in a special concert celebrating Black History Month. 7 pm, 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-5000. Free.

MUSICAL CELEBRATION: Wadada Leo Smith, the Flux Quartet and more honor composer Leroy Jenkins. \$10, 7 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100.

present fashion and jewelry. 11 am to 5 pm, St. Ann's Church, 157 Montague St. (718) 763-7654.

RECEPTION: St. Joseph's College Council for the Arts presents "Facing Self: There's a Story Here." Noon to 3 pm, 245 Clinton Ave. (718) 636-6876. Free.

AND HOW: Richard and William Howe commanded the British land and naval forces during the NY campaign of the Revolution. The Urban Park Rangers explains it all for you. 1 pm, Fort Greene Visitors Center, Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. (718) 722-3218. Free.

LECTURE AND FILM: Tada Rava Gallery offers a talk: "Art and Global Survival." 2 pm. Presentation is followed by a showing of the Academy Award-winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." 224 48th St. (718) 833-9100. Free.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: Celebrate the Lunar New Year. The Year of the Rat. 7 pm, Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

NEW MOON BALL: Salsa with your sweetheart to the sounds of percussionists, Chino Nunez and his orchestra. \$30, \$20 dance lesson and event. 8 pm, Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 348-5766.

DANCE PARTY: Cajun-Zydeco Dance Party. Live music with the ZydecoBoules. \$20 adults, \$5 children under 12, 6:30 pm, 55 Oxford St. (718) 625-7515.

KOSHER COOKING: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in Indian cooking. \$70, 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm, 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

Sun, Feb 10

PERFORMANCE
CHAMBER MUSIC: Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music presents the music of violin Kenji Bunch. \$20, \$10 students. 3 pm, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 55 S. Oxford St. (718) 625-7515.

JAZZ JAM: Central Brooklyn Jazz

Consortium hosts a Jazz Jam to benefit Pan Africanist Elombe Bath and his wife Norma. \$25, 3 pm to 7 pm, Jazz '66, 966 Fulton St. (718) 535-9783.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Wild Party." 3 pm. See Sat., Feb. 9.

OTHER

YOUNG SCHOLARS LECTURE: Congregation Beth Elshim presents Shira Kohn in a talk: "A Gentlewoman's Agreement: Jewish Sororities in Postwar America." 11 am to 12:30 pm, Corner of Garfield Place and Eighth Avenue. (718) 768-3814. Free.

GLUTEN-FREE COOKING: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in maintaining a gluten-free diet. Learn how to make pizza, cookies and bread... all gluten-free. \$70, 11 am to 2 pm, 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

INDE MARKET: Camp Lounge hosts a holiday pop market. Noon to 6 pm, 179 Smith St. (718) 852-8086.

CABIN FEVER CURE: Get off the couch and explore the secrets of Fort Greene Park. 1 pm, Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park. (718) 722-3218. Free.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY: High school students and their families are invited to attend a one-day special event that offers help in completing and electronically filing federal aid applications. 1 pm to 4 pm, Medgar Evers College, 1650 Bedford Ave. (718) 284-4700. Free.

HISTORY CLUB: Guest lecturers Joseph Cunningham, engineering historian; and Robert Lobenstein, general superintendent of operations with the MTA, discuss the beginnings of NYC's electrical power supply. 1 pm, Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

KOSHER COOKING: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in home of soups and small starters. \$70, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

CLOSING SALE: Underbelly Gallery closes today. Discounts on all images by David Sokoh, Robert Goldkorn and Clinton Irving Jones. 111 Front St., gallery 202. (718) 596-0390.

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Please join us to meet some new friends while enjoying food and refreshments. Meet our team, mingle with residents and tour our community. See what we do to make our community a place seniors are proud to call home.

Please RSVP for each event, or call for more details.

Open House and Super Bowl Tailgate Party

**Saturday, February 2
and Sunday, February 3
11:00am-3:00pm**

Families and friends are invited to Sunrise at Mill Basin for a Super Bowl Party. You will also have the opportunity to meet our team, mingle with residents and take a tour. Refreshments will be provided as you catch a glimpse or two of the big game.

Escape to a Mini Spa Retreat

**Wednesday, February 6
10:00am-3:00pm**

You are invited to a spa appreciation day. Featured indulgences include: massages, manicures, aromatherapy, skin peels and foot treatments. Products used will be available for sale. Come treat yourself!



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75 West 125th St. Manhattan (near Malcolm X Blvd.)

Seniors: Guard Your Home

Feb 14, 2008 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Victory One Senior Housing
1460 Fifth Ave. Manhattan (bet. 118th & 119th Sts.)

Feb 21, 2008 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. St. George's Episcopal Church
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Smash or trash?: Mike Carder struts her stuff at the Freegan fashion show on Jan. 25.

Salvage mission

Trashy fashionistas come together for Bushwick show

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Out of the garbage can and onto the runway. Freegan, a group that rejects consumerism and finds its nourishment by harvesting discarded (but clean) food out of Dumpsters, have taken their movement to a new level, by staging a fashion show on Jan. 25 in Bushwick.

Like their food, the Freegans' fashion designs were also saved from the dustbin of history — with fabulous results.

"It forces you to be ostentatious, because you can't pick and choose," said Johnny Bubonic, who showed off a "Chinese Fashion Police" getup comprised of a cop's hat, big sunglasses and a souvenir Asian ceremonial shirt.

FASHION

Freegan "Make Fun Workshops," demonstrating how to reuse and repair textiles, take place every first Tuesday of the month at 8 pm at House of Yes (19-49 Troutman St. between Flushing and Metropolitan avenues in Bushwick). For more information, visit www.freegan.org or call (347) 724-0954.

Perhaps surprisingly, cleanliness is not the top priority when foraging for new threads.

"It's first about the price. If it's free, then it's in my price range,"

said Bubonic. "Then, if it fits me."

He was one of a dozen or so models with a nom de catwalk, like Aphroditia and Teacher Creature, in the Thames Street loft.

Their ensembles might have been thrown in the trash, but that doesn't mean they were just thrown together.

"Oh God, it took a long time. It took years to find everything and hours to put them together," harped "Jes."

The attire ran the gamut, from a vintage 1970s "Shaff"-like outfit to a shiny, multi-piece toga — for the ladies — a bikini with a peacock tail — for cross-dressing men.

As they paraded and strutted, the emcee cheered them on over the techno music, saying, "You're all gorgeous and trashy."

The dozens of people in the audience were entertained by the display,

but not overly enthusiastic about the raffish for the clothes that followed.

One man steadfastly refused to buy a raffle ticket, saying, "I don't want to risk owning one of the costumes."

"Paying for fashion means profits for corporations and the destruction of Southeast Asia," said Quinn Hechikopf, one of the organizers.

"People throw out clothes to make way for new clothing they don't need every year."

The nonconformist message was a hard sell to one attendee.

"In New York, it would be hard and a little demoralizing — to rummage through garbage all the time," said Adrian Truini.

He may not have been a kindred



Models Davide and Cake.

Freegan, but he appreciated the atmosphere.

"I came here for the same reason I'd go to a market out in the country," said Truini. "It's completely off-track and artistic and has nothing to do with corporations."

Happy birthday

Philharmonic celebrates Corigliano's 70th year

By Kevin Filipski
for The Brooklyn Paper

During its 2008 season, the Brooklyn Philharmonic honors a great contemporary American composer — and a Brooklyn native — who turns 70 this year.

Although John Corigliano is no stranger to honors — he's won several Grammys, a Pulitzer Prize for his "Symphony No. 2" (2001) and an Academy Award for his score to Francis Ford Coppola's 1970 film "The Godfather Part II" — the composer told

GO Brooklyn that it is extra special to be feted by his hometown.

The centerpiece of the orchestra's Corigliano birthday celebration takes place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's opera house on Feb. 2, as his concerto for flute and orchestra, "Pied Piper Fantasy," is performed in a world premiere staging, directed by David Herskovits of Fort Greene's Target Margin Theater.

Corigliano's "Pied Piper Fantasy" was written at the behest of world-famous flutist James Galway, who premiered it at the Hollywood

Bowl in the summer of 1980 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Based on Robert Browning's legendary poem, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," Corigliano's work concludes with high drama that rarely occurs in the concert hall, as the piper leads the children away — and actually exiting from the stage are the flute-piper (Alexa Sill, at this performance) and the child performers.

The Midwood H.S. graduate's piece was chosen for Saturday's program after Corigliano and Brooklyn Philharmonic Musical



John Corigliano

Director Michael Christie discussed what would complement the legendary "Symphonies fantastique" by Hector Berlioz.

"We battled around both of my

symphonies and other works of mine, then our discussion turned to how the Brooklyn Philharmonic is justly famous for taking many works and adding extra-musical things to them — and my "Pied Piper Fantasy" is a natural for that," Corigliano said in a recent telephone interview from Nashville, where he was at a recording session of his oratorio "A Dylan Thomas Trilogy." "There's already the built-in participation of children in the piece, so it lends itself to that kind of Brooklyn Philharmonic idea where their additions to the original score further illuminate the concert experience."

Although musically, the Berlioz and Corigliano works are dissimilar (Berlioz's symphony, which premiered in 1830, is noted for its radical notions of harmony and unusual blendings of different instruments in the orchestra), the concert's title, "Painters of Sound," alludes to the fact that both composers are unusually adept at handling large orches-

MUSIC

The Brooklyn Philharmonic presents "Painters of Sound: Corigliano and Berlioz" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene) on Feb. 2 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$20-\$60. For more information about other Corigliano-themed concerts, call (718) 488-5700 or visit www.brooklynphilharmonic.org.

tra palettes.

"Along with being large in their orchestration, both of these pieces are very colorful and are also programmatic, since they both tell stories," said Corigliano.

Unlike the music of "Pied Piper Fantasy," how the plot unfolds on stage is not sacrosanct.

"Over the years, we've developed — through many different performances — various lighting cues and how the actual plot occurs, especially what happens with the children performers," Corigliano

explained. "Each orchestra is free to adapt it; they see what I suggest, and they either can do that or other things in the same spirit."

Although not tipping his hand before the premiere of his own staging of the work, director Herskovits discussed the "number of challenges" he has encountered so far.

"One is narrative: how much are we trying to tell the story and how much are we leaving to the music? Balancing what we see and what we hear is of deep interest to me, since all theater is a struggle between the eye and the ear and getting them working in a useful relationship is the fun of what I do," he admitted during a break in rehearsals.

"The composer wants this presented in a certain way," Herskovits continued. "Corigliano's obviously thinking about it visually as well as musically, and that's exciting — I'd like to tease that out a little bit, so that we don't feel we're just visualizing the music."

GOD SAVE...

Continued from page 7

said Leitch. When the thermostat plummeted, he dunks into Floyd on Atlantic.

"I'm the guy in the corner with a crossword and a vodka tonic," Leitch said. "Sometimes I write."

But he wasn't always in this enviable position. When the Woody Allen fan moved to New York in 1999 with a journalism degree from the University of Illinois, Leitch "would have killed to have Slate ask me to copy edit anything." But the dot-com bubble burst, and Leitch found himself working in a doctor's office and answering the phones for Spanish TV station Telemundo. (No, he doesn't speak Spanish, and yes, that made things difficult.)

A fed-up Leitch, along with a few frustrated writer friends, decided, "If we weren't going to make it, we weren't going to make it on our own terms."

They started BlackTable.com, a Web site where journalists could send killer stories that never made it to publication. While BlackTable didn't take off, it gave Leitch the opportunity to launch a new sports Web site for Gawker Media.

While Gawker footed the bills, Leitch had complete editorial control. In 2005, Deadspin.com was born as a



Will Leitch

place where fans could "take charge and write our own script for the sports world. They're our games after all." From the beginning, no one was safe from Deadspin's acerbic eye, from

unknown YouTube personalities to world class athletes to the famous faces that appear 24-hour-a-day on ESPN. He doesn't just train his guns on easy targets like NFL quarterback turned convicted dogfight impresario Michael Vick, but also on those who sensationalize and sermonize about the fall of the Vicks of the sports world.

Leitch is the master of the three-ring circus, setting up the scene with short posts and photos and a light touch of absurd humor, and then letting the community members go in for the kill. Leitch, who writes in the royal "we," enjoys this sense of community.

"We're the collective," Leitch said. "It's the ongoing conversation we're having."

This populist appeal is confirmed in "God Save the Fan," although the book is not just a reprinting of old blog posts. With his humorous, genuine and self-deprecating tone, Leitch hopes to keep sports fans laughing and, just as important, thinking about how, as he wrote in his introduction, the book has created a culture of "hero worship, bland game recaps and stale... soft focus features."

Leitch has a particularly scornful eye for the media giant ESPN (which, as proudly displayed on the cover of the book, has blackballed Deadspin).

"I want fans to know it's wrong, it's hurting you and you're a consumer," said Leitch.

Leitch, who grew up in the small town of Mattoon, Ill., shies away from the kind of excess seen on

TV. When asked about Brooklyn's own sports controversy, the Atlantic Yards, he took an evenhanded approach.

"Where I'm from, New York might as well be China. So it would make Brooklyn more national. You live in Brooklyn? That's where the Nets play." But personally, he is not in favor of "the Manhattanization of Brooklyn."

"God Save the Fan" is not Leitch's first book. He has written a collection of essays titled "Life as a Lover" and a novel, "Catch." He's currently at work on a new novel about a Nirvana-obsessed teenager, called "Come As You Are." Not that Leitch is looking to give up his Deadspin career anytime soon.

"I just want people to see my work," said Leitch. "And because of Deadspin, I'm able to get that."

BOOKS

Will Leitch will read from "God Save the Fan" (Harper, \$24.95) on Feb. 20 at 7 pm BookCourt (163 Court St. at Pacific Street in Cobble Hill). For more information, visit Deadspin.com.

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Hall welcomes kids...

SMART mom

Continued from page 1

"A bar is a place for adults to kick back and relax. How can you do that with a toddler running around?"

Smartmom can see both sides (she wouldn't be Smartmom if she couldn't find the nurseries in everything!). Yes, it's convenient to bring your kid with you if you don't have a babysitter. But do parents really need their Rob Roy with a side of rug rats?

Maybe. Carden told Smartmom this week that it was mistake to just put up the "No strollers" signs without an explanation to the neighborhood. Herein is that explanation: "It was strictly liability," Car-



Union Hall, on Union Street in Park Slope, will soon allow strollers inside, a few days after putting up a sign prohibiting them (inset).

den said. "A lot of parents are great and mindful. But some are not that attentive to their kids when they're in here. This

is a bar with an open stairwell and a bocce court. This is a business and we don't have the staff to police it."

It's not like Union Hall has anything against parents and kids — far from it. Carden and a few of the bar's employees have kids of their own.

"But Union Hall is not a community center," he said. "We want to be here for a long time. We've got a long lease. We don't want to jeopardize that for anything [with a possible lawsuit]."

So far now, that means no more mommy groups at the bar. One mom wrote Smartmom to say that she's not happy about this turn of events. She lives in a 650-square-foot apartment, and there's barely enough room for her, her husband, their 18-month-old and an elderly deaf cat.

So she likes to get together with friends in a public space like Union Hall. Especially when it's cold outside.

"In the winter, sometimes we go to a bar during 'off' hours with our kids, let them run around, let the adults chat and have a drink whether it be alcoholic or not," she said. "We assume that a bar or bar/restaurant would be happy to have some business during the off hours."

Good assumption. Carden now says he will open Union Hall to kids and parents a few afternoons a week.

While some parents might resent the segregation of parents and regular customers, Smartmom thinks this is a great compromise for mommy groups that need somewhere to go and a neighborhood socially in need of indoor spaces for

parents and kids.

Still, local parents will have to face the fact that Union Street is not a small village in the English countryside with a charming pub that doubles as a gathering place for families with children and dogs. Smartmom loved the feeling of those places back in 1978 when she took a bicycle tour through southern England.

But this is Brooklyn. And Union Hall is a grown-up bar. Smartmom would even go so far to say that it is designed as a place for the younger Park Slope crowd —

you know, those post-pubescent adults without gray hair that aren't attached to strollers and children. They tend to congregate at brunch places and bars on Fifth Avenue.

Heck, they're almost as young as Smartmom and Hepcat were when they hung out at that funky bar they called windows on the world on Avenue A.

Come to think of it, Smartmom can't remember any kids in Putty's, El Toddy's or the Ear Inn in Soho back in the 1980s. Kids certainly existed, of course, but they didn't have social lives like kids today.

Today, clearly Park Slope's "young people" need a place to hang out just like Hepcat did when he had a specially designated bar stool at the Great Jones Café.

And it's not like Union Hall never lets children through its very grown-up doors. Downstairs, the club sponsors special all-ages shows with such popular bands as Cane Bears on Fire and Teen Spinz, incredible new band, the Mighty Handful. These shows, which happen on Saturday afternoons, serve non-alcoholic punch with some gummy worms.

But other than afternoons for mommy groups, and the occasional all ages music show, Union Hall is declaring itself a kid-free zone on nights and weekends when it wants to be a grown-up bar.

Smartmom is okay with that. Just because they have a huge Bocce court, Union Hall is not, for the most part, a place for kids. Or parents who don't want to get a babysitter.

Louise Crawford also writes "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn."

FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay



A child enjoys bird-watching during a hike through Prospect Park. Another hike is scheduled for Sunday.

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

10 am and 11:30 am: Chamber music. Old First Reformed Church (126 Seventh Ave., at Carroll Street in Park Slope). \$7. \$6 kids. Call (718) 638-8300 for info.
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 638-5000 for info.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: Puppet show. "Cinderella." Puppeteers (138 South Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope). \$8, \$7 kids. Call (718) 965-3391 for info.

SUNDAY, FEB. 3

Noon: Asian art celebration. Kimble Theatre (Long Island University, DeKalb Avenue at Flatbush Avenue Extension in Downtown). \$20, \$12 kids 12 and younger. Call (718) 522-4696 for info.
2 pm: Hike through Prospect Park. Free. Meet at Audubon House (entrance park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue). Call (718) 965-8999 for info.
3 pm: Theater: "The African Drum." Brooklyn Music School Playhouse (126 St. Felix St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene). \$10. Call (718) 724-0677 for info.
4 pm: Chamber music. See Saturday, Feb. 2.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 2.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6
10 am and 11:30 am: "The African Drum." See Saturday, Feb. 2.
3 pm: Drumming circle. Move with Grace Studio (869 Myrtle Ave., at Washington Avenue in

THURSDAY, FEB. 7

10 am and 11:30 am: Theater. "The African Drum." NY College of Technology (65 Jay St., at Tillary Street in Downtown Brooklyn). \$7. Call (212) 744-0677 for info.
2:30 pm: Tales for Kids. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 230-2100 for info.

FRIDAY, FEB. 8

10 am and 11:30 am: Theater. "The African Drum." See Thursday, Feb. 7.
7 pm: Teen night at Aviator Sports (Floyd Bennett Field in Mid Beach). Call (718) 758-7500 for info.

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, Feb. 2.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 2.

SUNDAY, FEB. 10

2 pm: Concert. "The Gustaf Yellowbird Show and Concert." Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave., at St. Johns Place in Park Slope). \$10. Call (718) 230-0236 for info.
2 pm: Summer program open house. Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 Fifth Ave., at Eighth Street in Park Slope). Free. Call (718) 832-0018 for info.
2 pm: "Flora and Fauna in the Chinese New Year." Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Montgomery Street in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 623-1200 for info.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 2.

Want to list your event? E-mail Calendar@brooklynpaper.com.



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Green yields greenbacks

Hook-based firm wants to clean up moving

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A Red Hook moving company is breaking away from the competition by going green.

Movers, Not Shakers has taken the dirty out of its dirty work by cutting down on disposable cardboard boxes and injecting its trucks with less harmful fuel.

The Van Brunt Street company says its business model creates a win-win situation for the environment and the company (as Times columnist Thomas Friedman argues it would).

"It makes sense economically to separate yourself from the pack," said owner Mark Ehrhardt, formerly a drummer and a stockbroker before starting Movers, Not Shakers in 2002.

Ehrhardt thinks his eco-sound practices will give him an advantage with environmentally conscious consumers, but he doesn't want the leg-up to last.

"I'd like everybody to jump on board," Ehrhardt said. "Every company should be able to calculate what its carbon footprint is

and do something to offset that."

Ehrhardt aims to reduce that obnoxious footprint — the amount of carbon dioxide businesses or people release in going about their daily lives — in two ways.

First, customers can forget about the bulky hassle of foraging for cardboard boxes to pack up their possessions, because Ehrhardt offers reusable plastic bins. Customers rent them a week before they move and return them seven days later.

Movers, Not Shakers used to buy 500 pounds of cardboard per month. Since introducing the plastic bins, that amount has dropped by 60 percent.

In another show of eco-awareness, the non-disposable bins are crammed into trucks that run on biodiesel, a fuel partially made from restaurant cooking oil and emits fewer pollutants than diesel. This spring, Movers, Not Shakers will run even cleaner when it switches to 100 percent biodiesel which is made by Tri-State Biodiesel in Red Hook, too.

Ehrhardt purchases 200 gallons of fuel per month even



Mark Ehrhardt (l), owner of Movers Not Shakers, shows off his company's reusable moving boxes while a worker from Tri-State Biodiesel fills up one of Ehrhardt's moving vans with cleaner-burning fuel.

though it's slightly more expensive than the fossil fuel variety. Green moving made sense to some apartment-hoppers.

"On my last move, I spent a lot

of money on boxes," said Maya Polton, who recently moved from Chicago to Park Slope. "It's annoying to spend \$300 on boxes and then just throw them away."

For example, a local business group that virtually all the restaurants to collect their used vegetable oil to be processed into fuel by Tri-State Biodiesel.

If other companies in Red Hook get on the green bandwagon, they could reshape the neighborhood's gritty image, said Jed Marcus, a green expert.

"These activities promote neighborhoods as green neighborhoods," said Marcus, who leads Green Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, which encourages environmental-friendly living.

Though Mayor Bloomberg is promoting green ideas citywide, Brooklyn neighborhoods have proven to be the laboratory for innovative ideas.

In DUMBO, for example, a local business group that virtually all the restaurants to collect their used vegetable oil to be processed into fuel by Tri-State Biodiesel.

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Anti-flier bill gets Gov Spitzer's pen

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

The city can now penalize business owners for leaving circulars and menus on the doorsteps of homeowners who explicitly said they don't want them, thanks to a bill signed by Gov. Spitzer on Tuesday.

"We are on our way to dealing with what I consider an absolute mess," said Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Borough Park), one of the fiercest supporters of the state bill that gives New York City the right to write summons. "I'm talking from personal experience."

The bill has galvanized homeowners tired of finding piles of Kohl's circulars and restaurant delivery menus scattered on their doorsteps. Now, such homeowners will be able to post signs forbidding such activity. If the distributors disobey, the city will be able to fine them between \$250 and \$1,000.

"You shouldn't have to be responsible for cleaning up someone else's garbage," said Councilman Simcha Felder (D-Bor-



Simcha Felder and his mom, who dislikes receiving fliers at her home.

ough Park), declining to use that term to define politicians' circulars, which are exempt. Hikind said there was opposition from circular distributors. But Kenny Herman, who runs a circular business, wasn't upset.

"Doesn't matter to me," said Herman. "We have a list of people who don't want circulars already, and we follow it. This bill doesn't affect us at all."

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CONCIERGE...

Wealth: A tale of the tape

There's always been wealth in Brooklyn, but the new New Rich have redefined luxury living. Once, the wealthy were content to bask in quiet brownstone gentility. Here's our rundown of how times have changed.

— Dana Rubinstein

OLD WEALTH	STYLE	NEW WEALTH
An entire brownstone	Must-have item	A personal concierge
Prospect Park	View	Panorama of Brooklyn from 30th floor
Down the block	Location of dry-cleaner	Who knows? The concierge handles it.
Teenage son	Dog-walker	Who knows? The concierge handles it.

Continued from page 1

Bridge Park and No. Twenty Bay.

"I think it's almost certain that these new buildings, if they are high-end, will offer some sort of concierge services," said Werner.

Sarah Burke, the vice president of the Developers Group, which is turning an old Jehovah's Witness printing plant on Furman Street into One Hanson Place, agrees.

"In a building of 100 units or more, it's almost expected in this day and age," she said.

Indeed, much of this growth in the demand for concierge services in Brooklyn boils down to just that: expectations.

Back in the day, buyers didn't expect to have it so easy, said Roslyn Huebner of Aguyou and Huebner Realty.

"When we came from Manhattan to Brooklyn, these services weren't readily available in Manhattan," said Huebner.

"But once someone introduces a service, and it's perceived as desirable or a success, other buildings will provide it."

It's expected in luxury buildings.

That's said, it's hard for some Brooklynites, including at least one developer, to understand.

David Weiss, who built the Greene House in Fort Greene, said the essence of living in Brooklyn is its small-town character.

"What makes Brooklyn different is that people on some level prefer to have some relationship with their local vendors," said Weiss. "Brooklyn types are willing to give up some convenience to be able to know their dry cleaner."

But now, Huebner said, new residents "are Manhattanites who here are not considered Brooklyn."

Now that they're not just considering, but moving to luxury high-rises in the borough, they're bringing their expectations of convenience with them, and they're expanding the market for concierge companies.

Inside the Prestige headquarters, in an industrial building on Waverly Avenue, across from Steiner Studios in the Navy Yard, Werner proudly shows off his dry-cleaning plant, which employs about 20 people. The seven

pressing machines sent clouds of steam rising over rows after rows of dry-cleaned, plastic-wrapped pinstriped coats, skirts and pants — all destined for the bodies of their Manhattan owners.

Prestige has about 60 employees, including a more than 20-strong housecleaning crew and 10 valets who work in luxury buildings full-time. It serves more than 70 buildings in Manhattan.

Martin Ehrenfeld, the director of sales and marketing for No. Twenty Bay, and a 64-unit building set to welcome tenants in five weeks, toured the Prestige facility before recently deciding to partner with the company.

"I wanted to provide luxurious service," Ehrenfeld told The Brooklyn Paper.

"The people moving into our building are coming from outside of Brooklyn and are used to Manhattan-like services," said Ehrenfeld.

At One Hanson Place, the former Williamsburgh Savings Bank building, tenants wealthy enough to afford one of the 44 apartments in the "clocktower" portion of the building, the 32nd

floor, will be served by Luxury Attache, an extremely high-end concierge service in Manhattan, and in Miami, Florida.

It will do whatever the residents need them to do, like assist with move-ins and interior designs, get premium tickets to sold-out shows and concerts or sporting events, art and wine collection consultations, personal chef services, film premiere access, traveling plans, even dog-walking.

"I don't matter to me," said Brenda Vemich, director of sales for building.

The developers of One Hanson Place will provide two years of such service starting this summer. Once the building has a functioning homeowners association, the association will decide whether to continue paying for the service.

Jeanne Duenberg, the founder of Luxury Attache, which serves 12 buildings in Manhattan, said her company offers "lifestyle management."

"Our concierges and managers are proactive. So if they know if you like going to Brooklyn Academy of Music, they'll get you the schedule before it comes out to the public. They'll help you find rare bottles of wine."

Duenberg, for one, doesn't anticipate Luxury Attache coming to more Brooklyn buildings anytime soon. That's because those building's units aren't expensive enough because of Brooklyn's lower real-estate values.

Buyers of \$1-million apartments "are more penny-pinching," said Duenberg. "We're more about access rather than bargains."

Duenberg will leave the Brooklyn market to people like Beason, who is pushing the Brooklyn-centric nature of her company. Alister Belfron, a Brooklyn Heights client of hers, is thrilled with the service.

"My daily routine is busy as it is," said Belfron.

"If I have to go away for a couple days, and my partner has to go with me, we need someone who can provide not just the service, but a service we can be confident with."

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DOGNAP...

Continued from page 1

Bernadette said.

The next day, the sisters returned Samantha to 72nd Precinct cops. When police called Willie that afternoon, she bolted out of the office to reclaim her pooch.

"I'm in a pet lover so I had no problem bringing her back," Shalome said. "Thinking someone else's pet is like taking someone's child."

Now that Willie has the dog back, she is taking precautions to keep the dog safe. She has implanted Samantha with a microchip

so she could be traced back to Willie if she is ever lost or stolen.

She also plans to install bars on her kitchen window.

On Wednesday evening, Willie met with the Bernadette sisters to thank — and reimburse — them.

"I'm hoping they can find another animal to love," Willie said. "Just not this one."

Cops have no leads in the mystifying crime, but said such crimes are unusual. Experts say people do steal dogs for many reasons, including breeding, resale, anger at the dog's owner, and for use as bait in dog fighting.

Breeding was obviously out because Samantha is spayed.

"It was probably just some guy who thought he could make some money," said one officer at the 72nd Precinct. "And he did."

Around Windsor Terrace, Willie's neighbors, who had helped pour hundreds of flyers around the neighborhood, were overjoyed.

"I own a dog," said Joe Coppe. "If something happened to my dog, I'd like my neighbors to help out the same way."

Sam Willie before her dog was returned.

Sam Willie before her dog was returned.

Sam Willie before her dog was returned.

Sam Willie before her dog was returned.

Sam Willie before her dog was returned.

Sam Willie before her dog was returned.

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A performance of bass and vocal stylings.
Sunday, Feb 3, 4 PM

Leroy Jenkins: A Celebration *
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combines great music and silliness to get
everyone dancing.
Saturday, Feb 16, 1 PM

Discussion

Patricia Williams:
African Americans and the 2008 Election
This Columbia Law professor and columnist
discusses support for an African American
candidate in the 2008 election.
Sunday, Feb 3, 1:30 PM

Author Talk: Ishmael Beah & Laura Simms
Beah, a former child soldier from Sierra Leone,
discusses his memoir A Long Way Gone with his
adoptive mother, Simms.
Saturday, Feb 16, 4 PM

Author Talk: Kai Wright
Wright shares stories from Drifting Toward Love,
about gay youths of color and their precarious
lives on the streets of New York.
Sunday, Feb 24, 1:30 PM

Philip Gourevitch: African Conflicts in Context
Gourevitch, author of We Wish to Inform You
That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our
Families, discusses ethnic conflicts in Africa.
Sunday, Feb 24, 4 PM

Film

Coolley High
Chicago high school students enjoy student life
until they are falsely arrested for theft. Rated PG.
Friday, Feb 8, 6 PM

Zora is My Name!
A film about Zora Neale Hurston, the Harlem
Renaissance author of Their Eyes Were
Watching God. Not Rated.
Wednesday, Feb 20, 6 PM

AfroPop: 10 Days in Africa
Filmmaker Regi Allen travels three West African
countries to discover the truth behind the
myths that separate black identity in Africa from
the Diaspora.
Saturday, Feb 23, 4 PM

Krush Groove
Based on the early days of Def Jam, the film stars
hip-hop luminaries Run-D.M.C., LL Cool J and
Kurtis Blow. Rated R.
Friday, Feb 29, 6 PM

*Please purchase a ticket from SmartTix by calling 212.868.4444 or visiting
www.smarttix.com.



Ishmael Beah



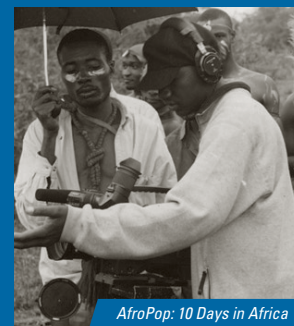
Patricia Williams



Kai Wright



Arlette Beauchamps



AfroPop: 10 Days in Africa